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Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report 1981-82

Saskatchewan Agriculture

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Government of
Saskatchewan

Annual Report
1981-82

Saskatchewan
Agriculture

Seventy-seventh Annual
Report for the twelve
months ended March
31, 1982

Regina, Saskatchewan
Printed by The Queen's Printer
1982

Contents

	Page
Letter of Transmittal, Eric Berntson	1
Report of the Deputy Minister	2
Organizational Chart	3
Administrative Services Branch	5
Personnel and Training Branch	7
Agricultural Implements Board	9
Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund	10
Animal Industry Branch	15
Conservation and Development Branch	18
Lands Branch	21
Plant Industry Branch	23
Statistics and Public Information Branch	27
Treaty Indian Liaison Unit	29
Veterinary Services Branch	31
Regional Extension Services Branch	33
Family Farm Improvement Branch	35
Irrigation Extension Branch	39
Communications Branch	41
Farm Ownership Board	43
Marketing and Economics Division	45
Agricultural Societies	49
Horticultural Societies	51
Appendix — Horned Cattle Trust Fund	52

Government of
Saskatchewan

Department of Agriculture

To His Honour,
The Honourable C. Irwin McIntosh,
Lieutenant Governor of the Province of
Saskatchewan.

Sir:

I have the honour to submit the annual report of Saskatchewan Agriculture for the twelve months ending March 31, 1982.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Berntson,
Minister of Agriculture

Report of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture

Honourable Eric Berntson,
Minister of Agriculture
Province of Saskatchewan.

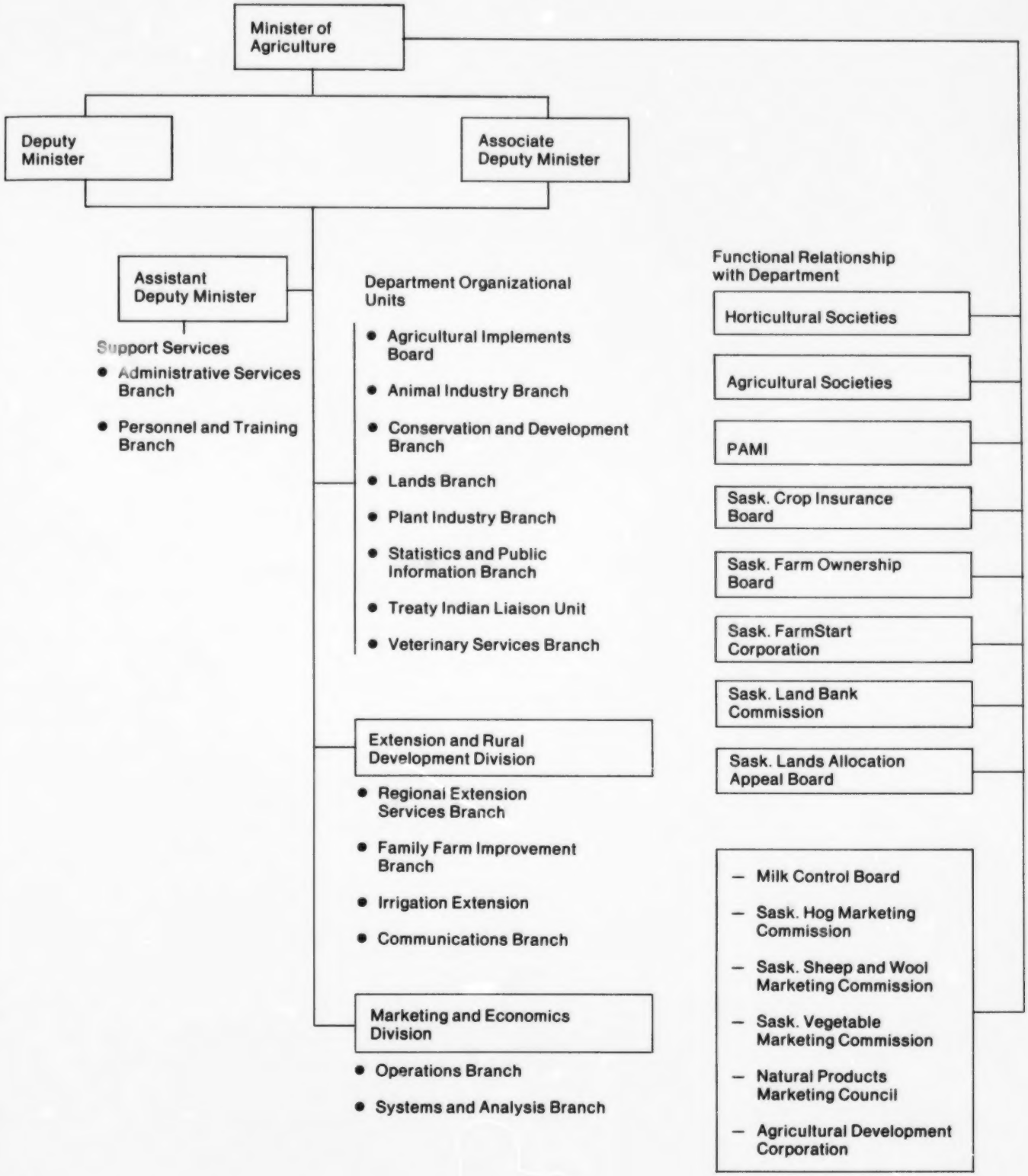
Sir:

I wish to present to you the annual report of Saskatchewan Agriculture for the twelve months ending March 31, 1982.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Drew,
Deputy Minister

Saskatchewan Agriculture Organization Chart (1981-82)



Administrative Services Branch

"Administrative Services provides department support services in budgeting and accounting, space and accommodation, equipment and supplies, computer management, and administrative analysis."

I. Financial Services

Services were provided for the preparation and maintenance of expenditure payment vouchers, revenue receipts, and the reporting and forecasting of department revenues and expenditures. Approximately 40,000 expenditure vouchers were processed during the year. The co-ordination and documentation of financial data for the department year end statements and the maintenance of budget and expenditure control systems were also major requirements throughout the year.

The Expenditure Payment and Reporting System provided program managers with quicker and more up-to-date information on branch expenditures. Assistance was provided in the administration of the Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund, Horned Cattle Purchases Trust Fund, Cattle Marketing Voluntary Deductions Act Trust Fund and the Agricultural Supplies Advance Account. Administrative functions were also performed for the Saskatchewan Grain Car Corporation and the Transportation Agency of Saskatchewan during1981-82.

Co-ordination of the development and approval of financial systems for new programs and policies implemented in the department was provided throughout the year.

Liaison was maintained with the Internal Audit Division of the Comptroller's Office to ensure that financial procedural requirements were met. Liaison was also maintained with the Provincial Auditor to ensure that proper procedures in recording costs and revenues were followed with respect to internal control requirements.

Cost sharing program claims were prepared for the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Program and the Agricultural Employment Agreement. Claims under the Productivity Enhancement and Technology Transfer and Qu'Appelle Implementation Agreements were also monitored and co-ordinated with respect to cost sharing provisions. The Director acted as Provincial Co-Chairman of the Productivity Enhancement and Technology Transfer Agreement.

II. Office Services

Services were provided for co-ordination and allocation of department space and accommodation. The Department of Government Services provided the department with new space in Strasbourg, Canora, Assiniboia and Prince Albert and new space is being planned for Kamsack, Shaunavon and Lloydminster.

Co-ordination was provided for department budget preparation, and acquisition of equipment, stationery, and office supplies. The branch also provided central department mail delivery and duplicating systems.

Significant progress was made in the implementation of the Computerized Inventory System which replaced the previous manual recording of departmental fixed asset transactions.

Staff worked closely with the PMIS Unit and the Budget Bureau in Saskatchewan Finance to co-ordinate the department budget preparation and review process.

III. Systems Services

Services were provided to co-ordinate the design, development and/or operation of 39 computer based systems within the department. This service included the rationalization and acquisition of systems resources such as analyst services and computer services.

The data entry unit provided keying services for 27 computer systems involving 44 various subsystems. Remote job entry services which involves the transmission and receiving of processed records were provided for 19 systems. The dial up remote job entry capability enabled the department to operate a major dairy management system through McDonald College located in Montreal. The data entry equipment was upgraded to increase the capacity and to enhance the capability of the system to satisfy data entry and remote job entry requirements.

Office automation studies led to the proposal for a departmental system called the Agriculutral Information Delivery System. This system is designed to improve information processing methods throughout the department by utilizing modern technologies.

The increase in computer utilization throughout the department has produced a significant increase in demand for systems services support. This trend has resulted from a continued effort to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of program delivery and to increase the level of service within the level of resources provided.

IV. Grant Administration

Administrative Services managed the following grant programs included in the "Assistance to General Agricultural Interests" allocation for the Department.

1. Grants to Agricultural and Horticultural Societies — Grants of $1,500 were provided to the Agricultural Societies Association and the Horticultural Societies Association to assist in their operating costs.

   The re-designed Grant Program for Exhibition Associations and Agricultural and Horticultural Societies was successfully implemented during the year. The new program provides for re-imbursement of up to 50% of the operating costs incurred by these organizations to a maximum of $5,000 for Class "C" fairs, $10,000 for Class "B" fairs and $1,000 for Horticultural Societies. The new formula provided significantly increased funding for the majority of these organizations. Grants paid in 1981-82 totalled $265,020 compared to $132,030 in 1980-81.

2. Grants to Sponsors of Horse Race Meets — Assistance was also provided for horse racing through the rebate of 80 per cent of parimutuel tax paid by race meet sponsors. A total of $1,527,998 was made in grant payments under this program in 1981-82.

Close liaison was maintained with the Extension Division, University of Saskatchewan with respect to the processing of grant payments and the evaluation of the policies. The Director of Administrative Services Branch represented the Department on the Saskatchewan Agricultural Societies Association board of directors.

Personnel and Training Branch

"The Personnel and Training Branch provides the Department with staffing, classification, staff relations, training and development, and payroll services. It also provides policy direction and guidance for administration and management of personnel to both the Department and its associated agencies."

1. Administration

The Personnel and Training Branch continued to develop a number of procedural changes, in order to streamline personnel services, both internally and for the rest of the Department.

2. Staffing

During the fiscal year 1981-82 the staffing unit co-ordinated 137 competitions, comprised of 69 professional, 14 technical and 54 clerical. In addition, the staffing unit assisted management in recruiting casual and temporary employees to meet ongoing program needs. Total staffing actions in 1981-82 were 400.

The Department recruited four newly-graduated Agrologists. For the first few months of their employment, these new Agrologists were assigned to Regional Co-ordinators where they were provided with a broad understanding of the functions and duties of our various branches; after this training period they were placed in vacant professional positions.

3. Classification

There were 41 requests for classification review in the permanent classified service this year, and two requests for classification review in the labour service. In addition, two new labour service positions were received for initial classification.

The mandate of the Agrologist Committee was updated and a number of new appointments were made to the Committee.

Personnel and Training also continued to assist the Hog Marketing Commission and the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation in their classification reviews.

4. Staff Relations

This branch again provided expertise and assistance to the Saskatchewan Hog Marketing Commission and the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation in negotiating with the Saskatchewan Government Employees' Union (S.G.E.U.). In addition, this branch co-ordinated the management proposals and liaised with the Public Service Commission in regard to the Collective Agreement that covers the employees in the Department.

5. Training and Development

Training and development of available resources is an ongoing program in the Department. This year, secretarial effectiveness has been upgraded by the attendance of all typists at the "Today's Secretary" course.

Each year the Public Service Commission offers courses in special skills such as leadership, effective writing, and managing a small work unit. In 1981-82, 92 department employees participated, representing 18 per cent of total permanent staff. Also, approximately 75 employees attended in-house training courses.

Exploratory talks were held with the Public Service Commission and some work has been done with a view to establishing a manpower plan for the Department of Agriculture. In conjunction with the Public Service Commission, some preparatory work has been done to initiate a pilot project on performance appraisals, which is a necessary part of manpower planning.

A 3-day "Program Development and Delivery" course for Regional Extension Services Branch staff was held during the year, 28 staff attended. The course was intended primarily for younger staff with about one to six years experience.

The publication "Personal Development Notes" was introduced. It is an ongoing series of short articles on various aspects of training and development. Approximately 500 copies of each article are distributed to staff in the department and its agencies.

6. Payroll

The integrated payroll service has been successfully implemented. Consolidation of this service involves full pay benefits record keeping, pay benefits calculations and information services regarding staff entitlements.

Agricultural Implements Board

"The Agricultural Implements Board works to improve the availability of repair parts and service for agricultural implements."

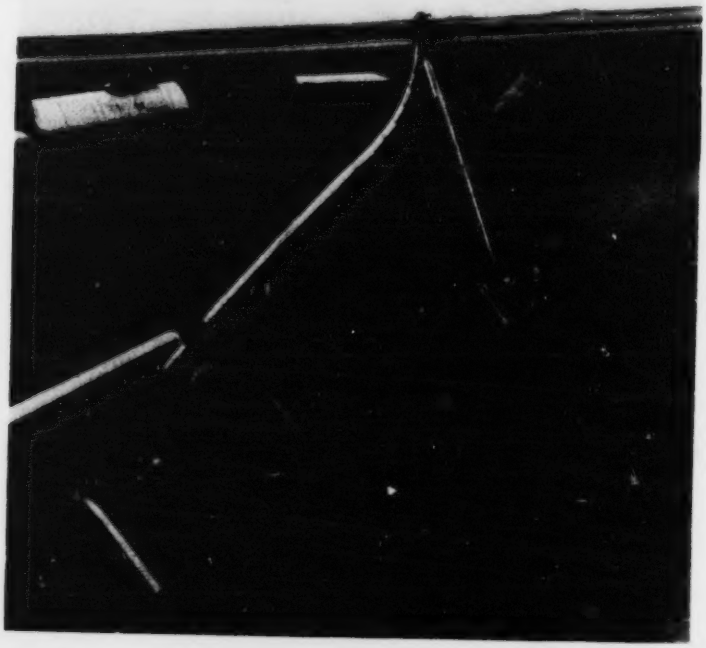
During the year 126 distributors were registered in Saskatchewan, representing 233 manufacturers. Inspections of 124 distributors' facilities and 996 dealers' facilities were completed. There were 881 licenced dealers at year end. Seventy-five new dealers were licenced and 36 licences terminated during the year.

A total of 236 complaints regarding agricultural implements were received from farmers, dealers and distributors. As well, 700 information calls were handled by the office.

As in previous years, surveys of the major parts depots in Saskatchewan indicated a fill rate of 88 to 90 per cent on parts orders. The major problem in parts supply therefore occurs with about 10 per cent of the required items. Transportation and customs facilities are also a problem. Eleven applications for compensation were received by the Board. Four awards were made for a total of $4,382.

Farmer purchases of new implements were slightly lower than previous years. This is a reflection of high interest rates and the uncertainties faced by farmers such as grain prices and markets for grain production plus the depressed livestock market. This trend is expected to continue until the other influencing factors are altered.

The implement industry is presently experiencing adverse conditions with some major manufacturers fighting to remain in business. Relief is not in sight as of June.



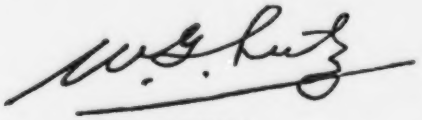
Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund

Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly
Province of Saskatchewan

I have examined the balance sheet of the Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund as at March 31, 1982 and the statements of revenue, expenditure and reserve fund for the year then ended. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund as at March 31, 1982 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.



Regina, Saskatchewan,
May 11, 1982

W. G. Lutz, F.C.A.,
Provincial Auditor.

Statement 1

Balance Sheet
March 31, 1982

	1982	1981
Assets		
Cash	$ 11,520	$ 7,195
Short term investments, at cost (approximates market (Schedule 1)	44,402	43,343
Accrued interest receivable	309	239
	56,231	50,777
Liabilities and Reserve Fund		
Accounts payable	$ 3,311	$ 409
Reserve fund	52,920	50,368
	$ 56,231	$ 50,777

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Statement 2

Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Reserve Fund
Year Ended March 31, 1982

	1982	1981
Revenue:		
General assessment	$ 5,234	$ 4,670
Investment interest	8,715	5,957
	13,949	10,627
Expenditure:		
Compensation payments	4,383	2,188
Investigation and hearing claims (Schedule 2)	7,014	2,474
	11,397	4,662
Excess of revenue over expenditure	2,552	5,965
Reserve Fund, beginning of year	50,368	44,403
Reserve Fund, end of year	$ 52,920	$ 50,368

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 1982

1. Administration Costs

In accordance with Section 52, The Agricultural Implements Act all sums required for the purposes of this Act are paid by the Department of Agriculture from moneys appropriated by the Legislature for such purposes and these costs are not reflected in these financial statements.

Schedule 1

Statement of Investment Securities
March 31, 1982

Security	Balance April 1, 1981	Additions	Disposals	Balance March 31, 1982
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Purch. $10,000 Mercantile Bank Bearer Discount Note, maturing April 16, 1981 bearing interest @ 17.10%	$ 9,767		$ 9,767	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Northland Bank Bearer Discount Note, maturing June 24/81 @ 17.20% cost per $100 — 95.93146	33,576		33,576	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Pitfield, McKay, Ross Ltd., purchased $10,000 Bank of Montreal Bankers Acceptance Note, maturing October 13, 1981 @ 16.70%		$ 9,239	9,239	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Pitfield, McKay, Ross Ltd., Purchased $45,000 Royal Bank Bearer Discount Note, maturing October 7, 1981 @ 19.10% Price — 94.79165		42,656	42,656	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Bank of Montreal, purchased $45,000 Bank of Montreal Bearer Discount Note, maturing December 8, 1982 @ 18.80% Price — 96.90540		43,607	43,607	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Wood Gundy Ltd., Purchased $10,000 Ford Motor Credit Company Promissory Note, maturing December 15, 1981 @ 19.22% Price — 96.789589		9,679	9,679	

Schedule 1 (continued)

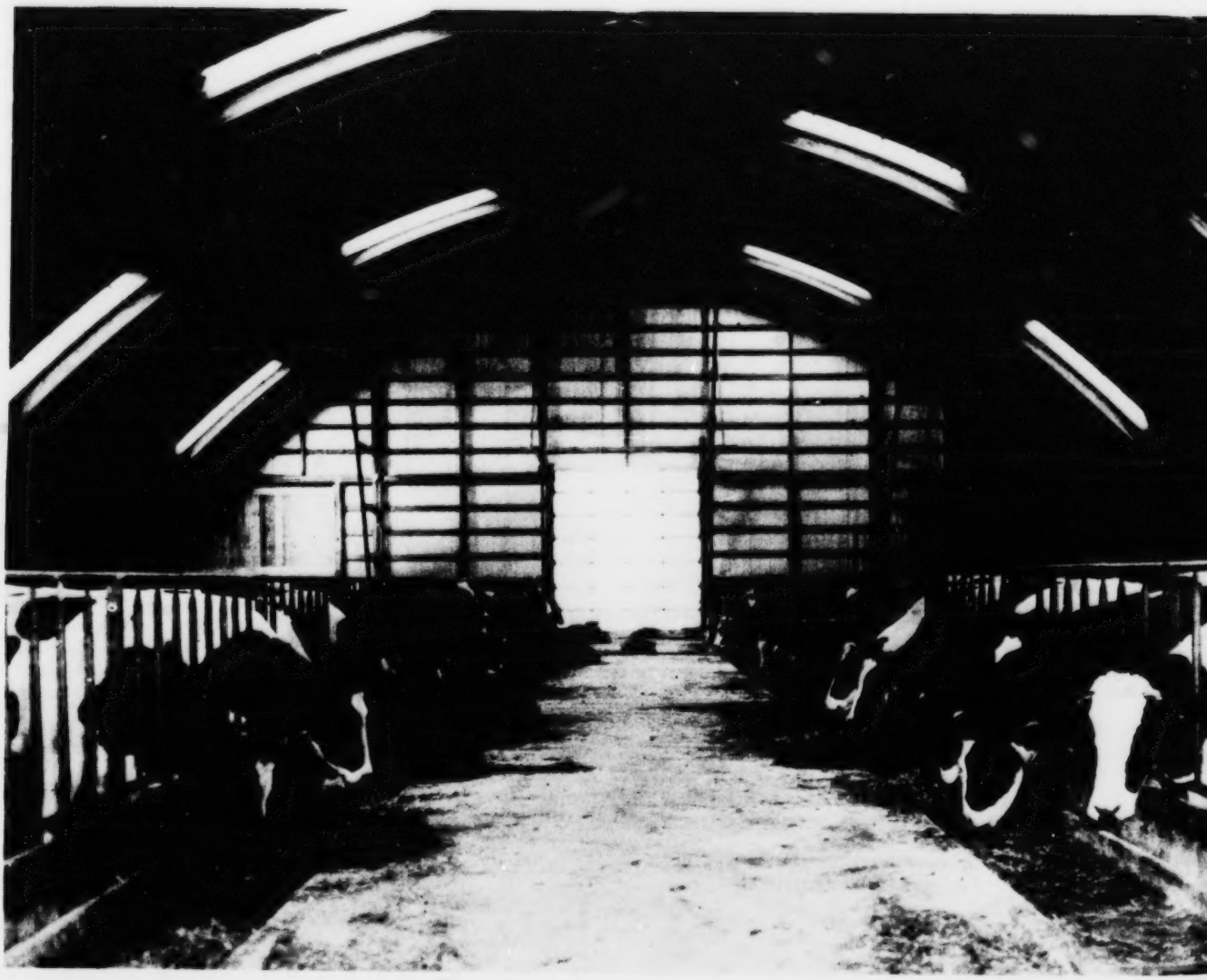
Statement of Investment Securities
March 31, 1982

Security	Balance April 1, 1981	Additions	Disposals	Balance March 31, 1982
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a/c Midland Doherty Ltd., Purchased $45,000 Royal Bank Bearer Discount Note, maturing March 15, 1982 @ 16.40% Price — 95.82366		43,121	43,121	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a/c Walugn, Stodgell, Cochrane, Purchased $10,000 Northland Bank Bearer Discount Note, maturing February 18, 1982 @ 16.80% Price — 97.09513		9,710	9,710	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a/c Wood Gundy Ltd., Purchased $45,000 Hong Kong Bank Bearer Discount Note, maturing April 15, 1982 @ 15.85%		44,402		$ 44,402
	$ 43,343	$ 202,414	$ 201,355	$ 44,402

Schedule 2

Schedule of Investigation and Hearing Claims Expense
Year Ended March 31, 1982

	1982	1981
Investigation	$3,201	$1,547
Board of Directors	3,408	927
Rental	79	—
Miscellaneous	326	—
Total Investigation and Hearing Claims **Expense (to Statement 2)**	**$7,014**	**$2,474**



Animal Industry Branch

"The Animal Industry Branch encourages the development of an efficient livestock industry through its production programs and regulatory services."

Extension, consultant and supervisory services are provided by provincial specialists and discipline specialists, regional dairy representatives, livestock inspectors, dairy technicians and fieldworkers for the benefit of farmers and the livestock industry in general. Liaison is maintained with research personnel in industry, universities and Agriculture Canada and with several other livestock production and marketing organizations. Staff members have an opportunity to be a part of the extension region program planning process; those within their respective regions by virtue of their headquarters location, the provincial specialists by virtue of their position and expertise.

The Dairy Quality Unit is testing for protein and somatic cell count on all 116,508 individual dairy cow milk samples and an additional 600 special quality tests are being performed on milk producing cows, as well as dairy manufacturing plant samples to ensure quality of raw milk and the processed product.

Close to 1.2 million head of livestock were inspected for verification of ownership by the Livestock Inspection Service of the Operations and Systems Unit. The function of the Data Processing and Retrieval System is to assist R.C.M.P. members, livestock inspectors and herd owners locating missing and stolen cattle. In 1981-82 the number of cattle reported missing was 900.

Under the Animal Identification Act, 29,112 brands were allocated, 800 new brands were issued, 5,490 renewed and 235 transferred.

The number of licenced artificial insemination technicians operating in Saskatchewan on March 31, 1982 was 153 which is approximately the same as in 1981. The number of first services reported by licensed A.I. technicians has increased to 21,157.

Eight, week long courses on reproduction and artificial insemination of cattle were held and two swine A.I. courses were also held at various locations in the province.

The Reproductive Research Trust which is a joint venture between the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Agdevco, Saskatchewan Artificial Breeders Co-operative Limited and Saskatchewan Agriculture mark a significant input into animal reproduction studies in the province. The first calf born from a frozen embryo was born in Saskatchewan.

A considerable amount of time was committed to work on national and provincial advisory councils associated with each of the animal performance evaluation programs.

The branch was involved in two international projects, one involving nutrition evaluation studies with the United Nations in Pakistan. The other involved wildlife farming in New Zealand and saw the use of frozen Canadian Elk semen used to produce hybrid calves on New Zealand deer farms.

A beef specialist was added to the branch to provide beef cattle extension activities. A new federal-provincial beef record of performance (R.O.P.) program was initiated. Three hundred and eighty five producers are now enroled.

Four beef test stations operated during the year and 453 bulls were tested. The beef cattle progeny test program was updated to reflect concerns of the producers.

In mid 1981 Saskatchewan converted from the Alberta Dairy Herd Improvement (D.H.I.) program to the Quebec Dairy Herd Analysis Service (D.H.A.S.) program. In addition to data on the level of milk fat for all cows enroled in the program, the D.H.A.S. program provides information on milk protein, somatic cell count for mastitis management, and an optional nutrition program that were not part of the old D.H.I. program. The D.H.A.S. program is recognized as the best milk recording program available in Canada.

In late 1981, Saskatchewan Agriculture re-established a supervised milk recording program and had 32 herds on the supervised phase at the end

of the 1981-82 fiscal year. There is a keen interest in the D.H.A.S. program by producers and at the end of the year there were 266 herds enroled. There are 15,000 cows enroled in milk recording. A policy was developed to progeny test young dairy sires in the province.

The Problem Wildlife Unit was able to maintain a sustained extension and advertising pressure for control of a variety of pests, parasites and "nuisance" animals.

Warble grub control was effective in further reduction of infestation in cattle offered for sale at livestock markets in Saskatchewan, and the current yearly infestation level has come nearly to the point where further reduction is impractical. Livestock producers in 12 to 15 municipalities in north eastern Saskatchewan adjacent to the Saskatchewan River and its branches were again protected from losses due to attacks by black flies **(Simulium supp.)**.

A variety of techniques continue to reduce the number of complaints of coyote predation on sheep. The project involving guard dogs was carried to a stage where several producers benefited from it.

A continuing involvement with the rat control program, and related vertebrate management problems is also handled by the problem wildlife unit. Advice on coping with poisonous plants in forage stands and pastures was also handled by the Problem Wildlife Specialist.

The past year saw weaker hog prices and high production costs. A decline of 16% in the number of hogs marketed were noted. However, requests for extension services showed no decline as committed producers, with this cost-price squeeze continued to make their operations more efficient.

The number of hogs tested under the Record of Performance and Swine Ultrasonic programs increased slightly with 8,563 animals tested in 1980, to 8,724 animals tested in 1981. The number of females tested remained static however, the number of boars tested under the program increased by 14.7%. The use of the R.O.P. Test Station continued at previous levels of 85% fill.

In addition to the normal extension programs and meetings, two major swine seminars or shows were held. Swine Design and the Swine Symposium attracted approximately 380 and 210 producers respectively, with attendance up significantly from previous years.

Saskatchewan sheep breeders tested 36 rams at the ram test station in 1981-82. A computer program was developed for the Saskatoon office to reduce turnaround time for evaluation reports for producers enroled on the R.O.P. program.

The provincial sheep specialist and provincial swine specialist, headquartered at Saskatoon, carry dual roles of ruminant nutritionist and monogastric nutritionist, respectively. Their major extension thrust emphasized feed usage and economics of alternate feed sources.

A nutrition advisory service was established for Saskatchewan livestock producers. A total of 4,556 feed samples were analyzed by the feed test laboratory. Feed testing among swine producers increased by 12%.

A computerized least cost ration formulation service is an integral part of the nutrition advisory service. The specialists promoted the feed testing program through assistance in collecting samples and demonstrated the benefit of the concept through a once only gratis feed analysis plus application of the least cost computer ration program.

Ruminant Nutrition:

Technical advice to producers on dairy, beef, sheep and goat nutrition.

Assistance with ruminant nutritional problem solving has been given a boost during the last year with:

(1) streamlining of Saskatchewan Feed Testing Service finances (SDA grant of $167,000 for last year)

(2) reduction in turn-around time for feed test results and,

(3) efficient and responsive service by an inclusion of Regional Livestock Specialists in the Service. The management of the Feed Testing Laboratory through Dean of Agriculture's Committee (with SDA and Producer representatives) and purchase of new computer and equipment has helped the service to become efficient.

A new assistance programme to encourage the producers to use the feed analysis and ration formulation service has brought about positive results.

Regular publication of "The Latest in Research" in nutrition is sent to all relevant professionals in the Department of Agriculture.

Sheep Unit:

SDA's sheep unit has established excellent rapport with Saskatchewan Sheep & Wool Marketing Commission, Saskatchewan Breeders' Association and various individual producers.

Sheep Unit has also taken over the responsibility of publishing "Sheep Topics" (three were published during the year) and Saskatchewan Sheep R.O.P. programme.

With new initiatives from the Unit

(1) Sheep Flock Record Book was printed and distributed to producers.

(2) A new Constitution for the Saskatchewan Sheep R.O.P. Advisory Committee was adopted, and

(3) Saskatchewan R.O.P. Ram Testing Station established. A total of 38 ram lambs were tested for rate of growth and superior animals offered by owners at various sheep sales throughout the Province.

The Sheep Specialist presented lectures in various courses on sheep production by the Sheep Unit for producers and agrologists, sheep producer meetings, and Alberta Sheep Symposium.

Ruminant Nutrition and Sheep Unit now has a full time person to assist the Specialist in nutrition and sheep extension.

Conservation and Development Branch

"The branch is responsible for programs to improve conservation, control and utilization of soil and water resources on farmland."

I. Flood Control and Drainage

Flood Control and Drainage for Organized Groups

1. General

The branch administers The Conservation and Development and Watershed Association Acts under which organized groups, farmers and agencies, may receive assistance for the development of flood control and drainage projects. Engineering and administrative services are provided for project investigations, design, operation, maintenance and organizational activities. Financial assistance is provided for construction and maintenance.

In 1981 the branch received requests to investigate thirteen new project areas. Status of flood control and drainage requests are as follows:

- 102 project petition requests under investigation, survey or design,
- 60 project requests received from conservation area authorities and watershed associations under investigation,
- 60 projects have designs completed and are awaiting local approvals,
- 52 projects were under construction,
- 148 projects are under maintenance services.

2. Major Projects

(a) St. Gregor South Flood Control Project is located approximately 10 kilometres northwest of Leroy.

A two year contract was awarded for the construction of the first phase involving approximately 32 kilometres of drainage ditch and associated works. In 1981 approximately 115 000 m^3 of excavation, was completed and 17 structures installed. Work will be completed on this phase in 1982 with the second phase scheduled for construction in 1982.

(b) Crooked Hill Creek Flood Control Project is located 4.8 kilometres northwest of Canora.

The contract awarded in 1980 for the construction of approximately 4.8 kilometres of drainage ditch and appurtenant structures were completed. In 1981 another contract was awarded for the construction of 6.7 kilometres of drainage ditch. During the year work completed included 204 000 m^3 of excavation, the construction of 2 major drop structures, 64 acres (26 ha) of clearing and the installation of 2 structures.

(c) Emmons Creek Flood Control Project is located near Carrot River.

Work undertaken in 1981 as "Phase 1", included the reconstruction of .8 kilometres of existing channel involving 24 300 m^3 of excavation, and the clearing of brush and debris from the outlet channel. Approximately 1.5 kilometres of existing drainage channel remains to be reconstructed in 1982 along with the installation of appurtenant structures.

(d) Petaigan North Flood Control Project is approximately 22 kilometres north of Carrot River.

A contract was awarded for the construction of approximately 4.3 kilometres of drainage channel. All the work under the contract was completed including 63 000 m^3 of excavation.

The total branch share of construction costs for all flood control and drainage projects in 1981-82 was approximately $1,741,200.

3. Maintenance Program

Local organizations during the year undertook $377,900 in maintenance activities. The branch assisted 59 organizations with these activities by providing grants amounting to $251,900. In total 88 projects were maintained. Local organizations continue to show an awareness for the need to keep their works properly maintained.

4. Local Organizations Activities

Of the 115 organized conservation and development areas and 5 organized watershed association boards, 91 are considered "active" and are either operating and maintaining their works or are in the process of developing proposed works. The local organizations are responsible for 2 575 kilometres of flood control and backflood irrigation works.

5. Rural Municipality Channel Clearing

Sixteen rural municipal channel clearing projects were authorized during the year. Fourteen expenditure claims were received, with the department paying $24,500 to seven rural municipalities.

II. Special Projects

Engineering studies involving investigations, surveys, designs or studies were provided on the following sections of the Qu'Appelle:

- Mission-Katepwa channel
- Minor channel improvement programs
- Lebret fish nursery
- Evans marsh fish nursery
- Echo-Mission channel
- Craven to Pasqua channel
- Last Mountain Creek diversion.

The special projects section is responsible for maintenance work in the Qu'Appelle. Erosion control and repairs to various structures were completed. Construction was completed on the Last Mountain Lake Creek Diversion Ditch at a cost of $53,700. Total construction costs in the Qu'Appelle were $99,000.

Under the urban flood control program, engineering studies, surveys, designs or investigations were provided to 16 urban centers. Construction was basically completed on flood control works for the Hamlet of Lac Vert and the Village of Lintlaw, and construction was started on the first phase of the Town of Canora project.

In 1981 investigations, surveys, studies or designs were undertaken on dykes and channel improvements for the cities of Weyburn and Estevan, flood proofing and relocation in Weyburn, Estevan, Roche Percee and Beaver Park at Oxbow. Investigations and surveys continued on farmstead relocations.

III. Irrigation Development

(a) Individual Irrigation

During the year, 370 new applications for assistance were received. Engineering inspections were undertaken on 382 projects and field surveys were completed for 216 developments.

Surface irrigation construction by private individuals was completed by employing private contractors. Earth was moved for surface irrigation development of 781 acres (316 ha). There was also a relatively large number of acres of sprinkler development undertaken, the total being 16,310 acres (6 600 ha).

Under the financial assistance policy, $131,685 was released in the form of grants to 63 individuals.

(b) Group Irrigation

Capital works amounting to $410,120 was undertaken on five projects. The Grainland Irrigation Project was expanded by 1,305 acres (528 ha) of private development and an additional 50 acre crown plot, bringing the total development to 2,588 acres (1 407 ha).

Development of the Moon Lake Irrigation Project, having a potential to irrigate approximately 5,400 acres (2 185 ha), began with construction of 6.4 kilometres of main supply canal and wasteway.

Development of the Macrorie Irrigation Project began by awarding tenders to pipeline and pump suppliers and partial removal of an earth filled cofferdam.

Land grading for renovation of 152 acres (62 ha) was done on the Vidora Irrigation Project.

(c) South Saskatchewan River Irrigation Project (SSRIP)

Investigational services including preliminary and construction surveys were provided to 62 individuals for irrigation development. Development during the year resulted in a net increase of 2,169 acres (878 ha). Total development of March 31, 1982 is 38,024 acres (15 388 ha) which is approximately 80% of the potential area.

The department spent $47,651 constructing works to control subsurface drainage and installing water supply points in the irrigation district. The South Saskatchewan River Irrigation District No. 1 (SSRID #1) provided services to the branch for capital and maintenance works on a custom work basis.

(d) Sewage Effluent Irrigation

Thirteen new requests for technical assistance were received. Investigations were provided to 17 urban centers and associated farmers regarding the possible use of sewage effluent for irrigation purposes. Several investigations were due to Saskatchewan Environment regulations affecting lagoon drains. Two effluent irrigation projects developed were Biggar and Marshall. Construction started on the Moose Jaw Effluent Project. To date thirteen urban centres are actively utilizing sewage effluent for irrigation purposes.

IV. Operation and Maintenance of Reservoirs and Irrigation Supply Canals

Operation and maintenance programs involving reservoirs and main canals amounted to $30,790. This included maintenance to the east side main canal and pumpsite on the SSRIP.

In 1981, 29,650 acre-feet of water was provided to the Saskatchewan Water Supply Board, through the main works of the SSRIP for the Saskatoon-Southeast Water Supply (SSEWS) system. By an agreement with the Water Supply Board, Saskatchewan Agriculture has been allocated water for irrigation. By sub-agreements, water is provided to irrigation farmers along the system. To year end, 51% was allocated for irrigation. During the year $400,812 was paid to the Water Supply Board to cover Saskatchewan Agriculture's portion of operation, maintenance and construction costs of the SSEWS.

V. Advance Account

The drought of 1981 resulted in a record number of dugouts and reservoirs being filled under the emergency pumping program. Water was pumped into 1,590 farm dugouts and 32 urban center reservoirs.

Earthwork was limited to the Family Farm Improvement Branch program of construction of livestock pollution control projects in the Qu'Appelle Basin. Work was carried out on 30 farms this year.

The structures program consisted of installation and maintenance of structures on the Wolverine Lake Flood Control Project, maintenance of structures along the Qu'Appelle River and construction and maintenance of structures on drainage ditches in the northeast part of the province.

Approximately 7,700 acres (3 118 ha) rebreaking was undertaken on the community pastures for the Lands Branch forage rejuvenation program. Cancellation of the proposed breaking program in 1980 resulted in no land being ready to re-seed to forage in the spring of 1981. Fireguards were broken on several pastures to permit burning for brush control at a future date.

Lands Branch

"The Lands Branch administers provincial land. As of March 31, 1982, these lands consisted of 7,749,215 acres."

Some 7,731 grazing leases are in effect covering 5,944,943 acres. Of this area 505,912 acres are leased to PFRA for use in their pasture program. There are also 1,567 cultivation leases covering 319,377 acres of land. The remaining lands administered include those held under sale agreement, other types of leases, 789,126 acres utilized in the Provincial Community Pasture Program and 323,584 acres of vacant Crown land.

Lands remain vacant because of low productivity, inaccessibility, isolation, poor drainage, severe topography, stoniness or excessive clearing costs.

Dispositions

During the year, 667 quarter sections were posted for lease. There were 301 new agricultural leases allocated; of those, 75 were appealed. The Lands Appeal Board confirmed the allocations on 46 appeals.

Sales

The Crown land sale policy was expanded in 1981 to allow the sale of grazing land to the leaseholder. Land which is classed as critical wildlife habitat, adjacent to a lake or river, environmentally sensitive or has a production problem (salinity) or is required for public use (gravel), is not eligible for sale. Over 1,300 applications to purchase were received. Approximately forty percent (40%) of the requests were determined not eligible for sale.

Grazing Lease Improvement Program

Lessees applying under this program were contacted by a land representative who authorized development on areas considered suitable. In addition to soil type, topography and other limiting factors, consideration was given to the importance of the area for wildlife and other uses.

The policy provided for a maximum payment of $85 per acre for clearing and breaking, $15 per acre for breaking on leases not requiring clearing, and $17 per acre for working down, breaking, root picking and seeding to perennial forage. When specifically approved, up to $7 per acre was provided for spraying with herbicides. Under this program in 1981-82, the Branch spent $987,709.

Cultivation Lease Improvement Program

In 1981-82, $183,186 was spent for land development on cultivation leases. The maximum payment for combined clearing and breaking was $90 per acre and $15 per acre for breaking where clearing was not required. There was an additional $15 per acre allowance to the lessee for working down.

Community Pasture Operations

The Lands Branch operated the 54 cattle pastures which carried 77,652 head of adult cattle plus 51,992 calves from 3,162 patrons. Of the 45,392 breeding cows in the pasture, 656 were entered in artificial insemination programs.

The department also operated three Provincial Community sheep pastures in 1981 at Fairholme, Mortlach and Tompkins. Fifty-three patrons pastured 5,967 ewes and 2,259 lambs.

Including the cost of spraying for brush control $413,256 was spent in 1981-82 on capital construction and land development for provincial pastures.

Lebret Training Farm

The 1981 Lebret Farm operation consisted of approximately 775 acres of crop land, 700 acres of perennial forage and a 100 head cow herd. Some of the farm land was leased for a one year term to local farmers for cropping purposes.

Program Revenues

The land resource administered by Lands Branch provided $16,197,633 in revenue in 1981-82 in the form of rentals, fees, sales, interest and transfer payments from Canada.

Plant Industry Branch

"The branch is responsible for the promotion, development, production, and protection of field, forage, horticulture and honey crops in the province."

A staff of agricultural specialists work closely with other branches of the department, Agriculture Canada, universities, industry and other related agencies to provide guidance in the development of crop production and protection programs and to provide pertinent information to farmers. The staff also acts in a consulting capacity to the agricultural industry and other departments of government in the development of policies and programs to promote increased and more efficient crop production.

I. Crop Production Services

Programs:

1. Forage Seed Production Field Day

The Crop Production Section co-operated with the Saskatchewan Branch of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association in organizing a forage seed field day at Indian Head on July 23, 1981. Approximately 35 people attended.

2. Alfalfa Seed and Leafcutter Bee Extension

Recognizing the importance of leafcutter bees to the alfalfa seed industry, the forage crops specialist has co-operated with the Saskatchewan Leafcutter Bee Association by organizing the following projects:

(a) Leafcutter Bee Field Day — about 200 people attended a field day in the Outlook area which was held on July 24, 1981.

(b) Funding for the Prairie Leafcutter Bee Cocoon Testing Centre — Plant Industry Branch provided $3,000 towards operating costs for this testing centre which is located at Brooks, Alberta.

(c) First Interprovincial Alfalfa Seed School — about 250 people attended the First Interprovincial Alfalfa Seed School which was held in Saskatoon on January 11 and 12, 1982.

3. Development of Forage Demonstration Sites

The forage crops specialist assisted Regional Extension staff in establishing the design and obtaining seed for FarmLab forage projects located in various parts of Saskatchewan.

4. Canadian Forage Seed Project Seed Distribution

The following foundation forage seed was distributed to Saskatchewan Seed Growers' on behalf of the Canadian Forage Seed project for planting in 1982.

Crop Kind and Variety	
Altai Wild Ryegrass-Prairieland	425 kg
Bromegrass-Carlton	185 kg
-Magna	650 kg
Creeping Red Fescue-Boreal	10 kg
Alfalfa-Algonquin	290 kg
-Angus	425 kg
-Beaver	1,100 kg
-Rambler	660 kg
Timothy-Climax	250 kg
Crested Wheatgrass-Parkway	200 kg
Bird'sfoot Trefoil-Leo	30 kg
Alsike Clover-Aurora	125 kg
Sweetclover-Yukon	725 kg

New contracts have been allocated to Saskatchewan growers for the production of foundation Leo Bird'sfoot Trefoil and Yukon Sweetclover.

Cereal and Oilseed Crops

To make farmers aware of the recent advances in crop breeding, the number of Varieties of Grain Crop leaflets was increased to 90,000 from 40,000. About 74,000 were distributed directly fo farm homes by the "Farmers Only Householder Mailings".

To facilitate locating seed for new and commonly grown varieties the "Saskatchewan Pedigreed Seed Growers' — Directory — 1982" was produced in co-operation with the Saskatchewan Branch of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association and Farm Light and Power. This seed directory was distributed as an insert in the February issue of the Farm Light and Power.

A Seed Cleaning Workshop was held at North Battleford in co-operation with the extension staff in the North West Region. About 175 farmers attended to learn the benefits of quality seed and how to process it to achieve maximum quality.

Some other activities of the Cereal and Oilseeds Crops Specialist included meeting with the Chinese and Russian delegations with regards to production of Canola in the province, conducting a Pedigreed Seed Growers' Short Course and Field Day, a Probation Seed Growers' Short Course as well as processing 200 applications for breeder seed.

Special Crops

Special crop demonstrations were carried out at nineteen locations in the province. Confection sunflowers, chickpeas, soybeans, broadbeans and fibre flax were included in the program.

II. Crop Protection Services

The Weed Control Policy, which provides 50 per cent cost sharing of approved weed control projects, was continued. The Department share of the cost of this program was $100,343.36 in 1981-82.

A continuing effort to establish a province-wide rat eradication program resulted in all extension districts joining the program by the end of the fiscal year.

An extensive survey of adult grasshoppers indicated a 16 per cent increase in populations.

The increase included 1,872 square miles which were in the very severe category. The area in this cateogry was the largest since 1962.

Light traps were installed in 2 centres to monitor populations of Bertha armyworms, beet webworm, diamondback moth, redbacked cutworm, pale western cutworm, wheathead armyworm, army cutworm and forest tent caterpillars. Pheromone traps were installed in 100 locations in Northwest Saskatchewan to monitor Bertha armyworm. Pheromone traps were also installed in 30 locations in Southeast Saskatchewan to monitor Sunflower Head Moth.

Pesticide Safety

1. General

The major activity in this area is the administration of The Pest Control Products (Saskatchewan) Act and the regulations thereto.

As part of the administration of the Pest Control Products (Saskatchewan) Act, the Pesticide Safety Specialist handles numerous inquiries regarding pesticide safety and regulatory requirements. Because of the consolidation and review of the regulations within the jurisdiction of Saskatchewan Agriculture, personnel re-evaluated the management of pesticide activities in the province.

2. Regulatory Responsibilities

An assessment of the beneficial effects and risks entailed in the use of specific pesticides in specific circumstances must be done by the provincial department responsible for pesticide management and the federal regulatory authority. The assessment will determine whether regulation or restriction is called for and if so which specific regulations would service the public best. A balanced decision must be reached using all available resources. We must develop pesticide management action with our specific provincial circumstances as the major basis for decisions. We also have to be cognizant of the national overtones created by any given regulatory action.

3. Training and Licensing

Emphasis is placed on the training and licensing of commercial pesticide applicators and carrying out an extension program to promote the safe use of pesticides.

A record-keeping system was developed to help service and monitor individuals holding pesticide applicator permits.

The approximate 2,200 Agricultural Chemical Dealers in Saskatchewan have benefited from the ongoing Dealer Certification Program. The specialist works in conjunction with the dealer network in Saskatchewan and provides information to assist their community with the normal safe handling and use of pest control products and also with the required protective steps in the event of any emergency situation that involves pesticides.

4. Captan Fungicide Position

The Saskatchewan position on the fungicide Captan was co-ordinated and compiled. Inputs were collected from a variety of sources to ensure sound evaluation of the academic and practical questions about Captan. The need for balance in the provincial position was stressed by those wishing to contribute and to that end a wide variety of sources for information and material were sought. The paper recommends that the status of Captan remain in the "pending further review" category until additional data from new studies are compiled, submitted and reviewed.

Plant Pathology

Saskatchewan Agriculture provided specialist laboratory services for fungus identification from twig samples submitted from the continuing Dutch Elm Disease (DED) survey. In 1981, **Ceratocystis ulmi**, the cause of DED, was discovered for the first time in Saskatchewan. This was detected in an infected elm tree in the Regina cemetery; the tree was subsequently removed and destroyed.

Saskatchewan Agriculture collaborated in the National Verticillium Wilt of Alfalfa survey. A total of 178 alfalfa fields, of which 33 were irrigated, was surveyed for the disease in 1981. Plants in one field, at Cabri, Saskatchewan, were found to be infected and it has since been ploughed down.

Over 400 samples were received for diagnosis in the Crop Protection Laboratory. Ornamental trees made up the greatest proportion of these (34%), followed by field crops (28%). The preponderance of ornamentals is reflected in the high proportion of total enquiries (59%) attributed to non-pathological disorders: in individual plant groups, pathogenic diseases exceeded 50% in field crops and vegetables.

III. Soil Services

April and May, 1981, recorded the most severe soil drifting since the 1930's. Publicity was directed at emergency measures to cope with the problem. Emphasis during the year was placed on recognizing and instituting soil conservation measures to avoid the recurrence of widespread soil erosion by wind. A slide-tape presentation on "Soil Care" was prepared in co-operation with Communications Branch.

Re-establishment of a water erosion control policy, providing financial and technical assistance to farmers, involved the soil specialist in considerable investigation and extension work. Revision was started on the bulletin "Save the Soil — A Study in Soil Conservation and Erosion Control".

The soil salinity research demonstration program was continued. Tours and meetings were held highlighting measures to cope with an increasing saline seep problem. FarmLab projects in soil salinity were investigated. The revised bulletin "Understanding Salt Affected Soils" was published.

IV. Horticulture

The section is responsible for administration of the vegetable grading regulations under The Vegetable and Honey Sales Act in co-operation with the Saskatchewan Vegetable Marketing Commission and the federal Food Production and Inspection Branch.

A project to demonstrate the control of flower thrips on cabbage was continued at Cochin Lake in co-operation with the University of Saskatchewan.

Revisions of publications on roses was completed and the publication on lawns was begun. Several information leaflets were also revised.

The farmstead landscape design program was continued.

V. Apiary

During the 1981 season more than 83,000 honey bee colonies were in operation in Saskatchewan. The total value of honey and bees wax production was in excess of 8.7 million dollars, a record amount. Estimates indicate that the increased value to Saskatchewan crop production through beneficial pollination was an additional 50 million dollars.

Commercial beekeeping provides direct full-time and part-time employment for an estimated 1,000 people. Approximately 30 percent of the colonies being operated in Saskatchewan are by beekeepers who have FarmStart loans.

The provincial apiculturist was assisted in his duties by a part-time assistant for six months during the spring and summer. A series of short courses were held around the province dealing with disease control and wintering. As well, studies on the occurrence of nosema disease and the effects of honeybee pollination in sunflower seed production were performed. Field inspection of honeybee colonies were performed by six field workers, and with the assistance of the part-time assistant, the number of colonies examined was increased from previous years.

VI. Special Programs

The Branch continued to administer the maintenance of a stock of insecticide for use in grasshopper control. The insecticide was made available to producers through Rural Municipalities. Since many municipalities were reluctant to handle and distribute insecticides because of safety concerns, the grasshopper chemcial was distributed on a consignment basis through the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool.

Drought Program

Program	Applications in 81/82
Feed Transportation Assistance	7,800
Livestock Transportation Assistance	196
Emergency Fencing Grants	7,745
Rural Municipality Community Well Program	110
Dugout Pumping Program	1,590 farm dugouts 32 urban centre dugouts

Summary of Drought Program Expenditures

Program Component	Expenditures in 81/82
Administrative and Drought Committee Operations	167,700
R. M. Wells	219,700
Fencing	1,901,000
Cattle Transportation	93,850
Feed Transportation	4,762,600
Ground Water Search	301,700
Deep Wells	188,300
Total	$7,634,850

Statistics and Public Information

"The Statistics unit collects, analyzes, interprets and disseminates agricultural statistics. The Public Information unit keeps farmers and the general public informed of the policies, programs and legislation of Saskatchewan Agriculture."

I. Statistics

During 1981-82, the branch and Statistics Canada were operating under the fourth year of a federal-provincial statistics sharing agreement. In addition, the branch had a number of ongoing co-operative surveys and activities which were undertaken jointly with Statistics Canada. These include surveys of grading of wheat and fall field work, farmer's seeding intentions, seeding progress and condition of fall planted crops, specialty crops, estimated yield of principal grains, fall sown crops, harvest progress, and livestock, A compilation of these statistics is published each year by the branch.

The branch responds to several hundred inquiries for statistical information each year.

Up-to-the-minute information on market trends for farm commodities produced in Saskatchewan is published each day. Statistics also prepares a one-page fact sheet of agricultural statistics describing major commodities produced in the province, farm prices, livestock inventories on farms, farm population, farming income and expenses, and climate. The fact sheet is primarily intended for individuals and organizations within the province.

Reports showing cattle shipments are published monthly and annually, and sent to about 450 people.

In 1980, Statistics continued to provide a regular crop reporting service. The reporting base was about 275 farmers and 43 agricultural representatives.

Statistics also has the responsibility for co-ordinating the activities of all branches and agencies of the department in conversion from imperial to metric units of measurement.

II. Public Information

The Public Information Unit answers all requests for information and recommends specialists where applicable. The unit acts as a consultant to all branches and agencies in the areas of publication requirements, promotion and advertising.

During the fiscal year, Public Information was involved in the organization of a series of Beef Stabilization information meetings in the fall of 1981 and also a series of Crow information meetings held in the spring of 1982.

A promotional advertising and public relations campaign was prepared for Agriculture Appreciation Week held in the spring.

FarmLab, a five-year agricultural research program, joining the expertise of Saskatchewan farmers and the expertise of scientists to increase production while maintaining maximum soil health was introduced in the fall of 1981. A brochure was designed for the FarmLab program and a complete FarmLab display was prepared and set up during Agribition in Regina and at MEXabition in Saskatoon.

Public Information produces Farm Notes and Inside Saskatchewan. The unit also co-ordinates the preparation and publication of the annual report for the department. It also writes and arranges for distribution of press releases for Saskatchewan Agriculture. The unit assists provincial media representatives in their quest for information on special features and regular agricultural programming.

In the fall of 1981 a research study was initiated and carried through in the hopes of determining the requirements of field staff, specialists and departmental branches regarding Saskatchewan Agriculture publications and ways of evaluating and organizing a more efficient way of distributing information to field offices in order that the publications be utilized to their maximum potential.

Presentations of the Century Family Farm Award program are organized through the branch. Initiated in Celebrate Saskatchewan year, the Century awards are being presented to owners of farms that have been continuously operated by members of the same family for 100 years or more.

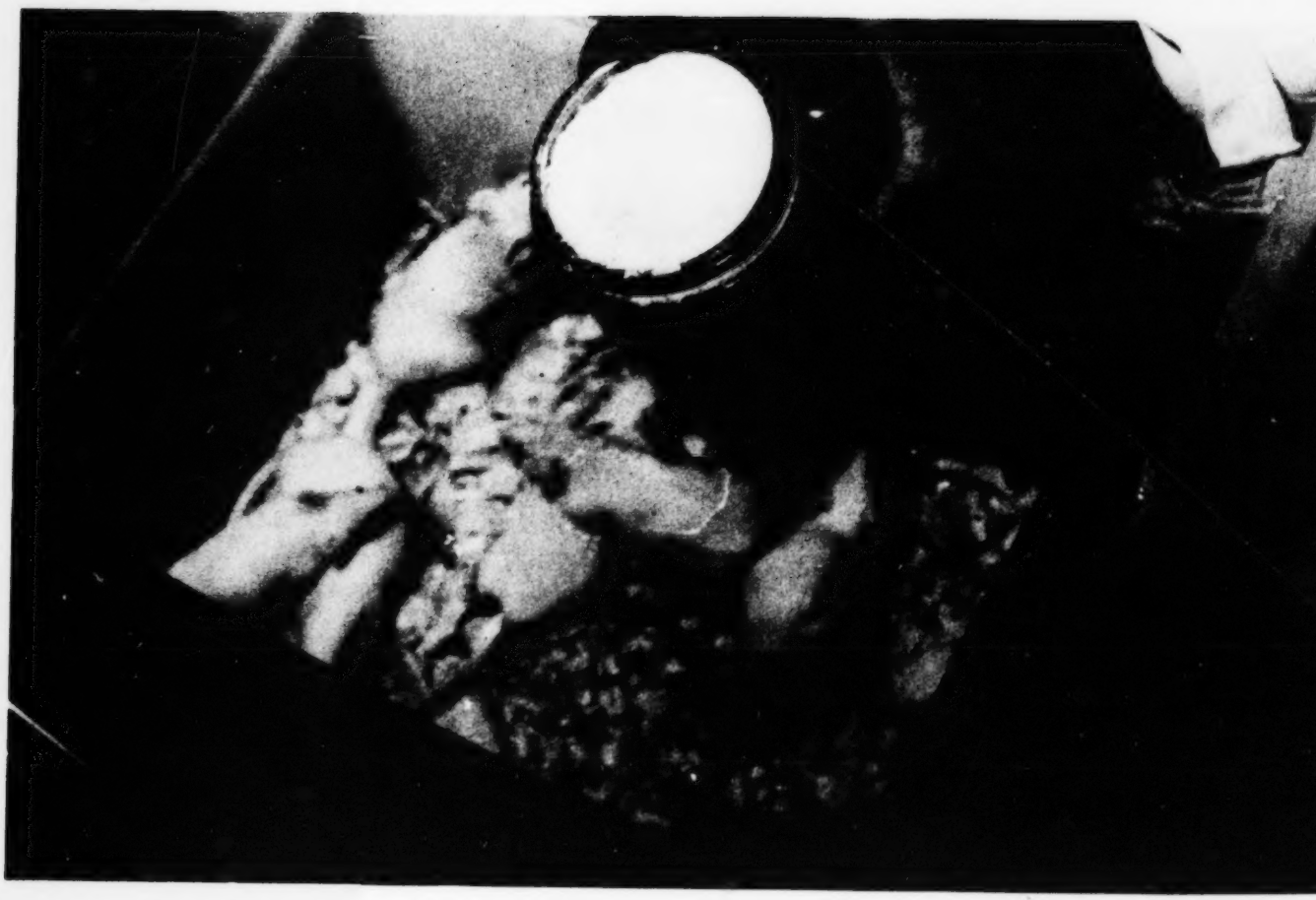
Treaty Indian Liaison Unit

"The Treaty Indian Liaison Unit represents the province in dealings with treaty Indians and helps develop policy for the delivery of services to treaty Indians."

This year, field staff responded to requests and concerns from the 68 Indian bands in Saskatchewan in areas such as on-reserve and off-reserve access roads, senior citizens activity centres and home repair, home care, hunting and fishing rights, rat and weed control, elk release, wild rice marketing, recreation and cultural facilities, special event grants, home modification for the physically handicapped, heritage site assistance and economic feasibility studies.

Unit staff helped administer the **Indian Tax Agreement for Petroleum Products**, a provincial program introduced in the 1981-82 fiscal year to provide each band a grant in lieu of the gasoline tax collected from members of that band.

Unit staff helped Indian bands in negotiations for representation on school boards and in supervision of joint school development. Unit staff also attended several Indian policy conferences.



Veterinary Services Branch

"The Veterinary Services Branch develops programs to control animal disease, and to ensure a wholesome supply of meat and meat products."

The branch employs six veterinary specialists, an agrologist, poultry specialist and 10 technical staff. The programs of the branchs are broadly divided into diagnostic laboratories service, and field services. The programs of the branch operate under the authority of The Veterinary Services Act, The Diseases of Animals Act, The Animal Protection Act and The Department of Agriculture Act.

1. Field Services

There were 52 veterinary service districts comprised of 230 rural municipalities operating in the province in 1981-82. The grants provided to veterinary service districts under the authority of The Veterinary Services Act for travel, clinic maintenance and construction and for an additional veterinarian totaled $446,000.

The dairy and swine preventive health programs allowed approximately 300 producers in each of these industries to have regular visits by practicing veterinarians who provided advise on management and disease prevention and encouragement in record keeping. The services of a staff species specialist was available to producers and veterinarians to help solve complex problems. The budget for these programs was $232,000.

A branch poultry specialist provided management and nutritional advice to small flock owners as well as inspection service to 59 hatchery supply flocks.

Meat inspection continued in 15 domestic abattoirs with the inspection carried out under contract by Agriculture Canada veterinary inspectors. The cost of this contract in 1981-82 was $256,000 with 17% of this amount paid by the abattoir owners. The above programs are under the authority of The Diseases of Animals Act.

Under The Animal Protection Act the department continued a contract with the Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to investigate cases of inhumane treatment of animals in Saskatchewan. The inspectors investigated approximately 200 cases and the grant was $53,300.

The Department of Agriculture Act provided the authority for the Veterinary Student Summer Employment Program and allowed 15 students from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine to gain valuable practical experience working with private veterinary practitioners for 3½ months during the summer. The budget of $29,000 covered 50% of the salaries of these students.

This same act made it possible to provide a $65,000 grant to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine so that a veterinary poultry specialist and a poultry specialist from the College of Agriculture, University of Saskatchewan, could provide nutrition and disease advice to major turkey, egg and broiler producers in the province.

II. Laboratory Services

The Diseases of Animals Act also provides for the services of veterinary diagnostic laboratories. These laboratories provide diagnostic service free of charge for all animal species. The laboratory located in Regina handled 9,400 submissions in 1981, a 14% increase over the previous year. The Western College of Veterinary Medicine under contract provided a similar service to the northern half of the province and this laboratory handled 9,700 submissions in 1981. The grant to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine for this work in 1981-82 was $300,000.

Regional Extension Services Branch

"Regional Extension Services assists farmers in developing and maintaining viable farm units."

Each of the six geographic regions develops its own priorities for its extension program based on the needs for that part of the province. Extension field staff consists of regional co-ordinators, ag. reps., and specialists in farm management, livestock, soils and crops.

The branch works with other agencies in jointly delivering extension programs, acting as resource persons for their programs, or arranging for resources. These other agencies include: Extension Division, University of Saskatchewan; Community Colleges; Wascana Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences; Department of Manpower and Immigration; Agriculture Canada; Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development; and agribusiness.

I. Program Development

Agricultural committees, district boards, regional councils and local organizations concerned with agriculture are relied upon by extension staff for disseminating information, publicizing department programs, and gathering feedback on various programs, policies and concerns.

In 1981, 12 FarmLab Committees were appointed under the Program for Locally Initiated FarmLab Projects to advise the department on research and demonstration activities to be undertaken in their respective geographic areas.

II. Activities

A new Ag. Rep. office was opened at Watrous to serve farmers in six rural municipalities surrounding that community. There are now 45 ag. reps. in 43 agricultural extension districts throughout the province.

The introduction of the FarmLab Program and the Beef Stabilization Program generated a significant increase in staff workload.

Under FarmLab, staff were heavily involved in development and design of projects to demonstrate and study recommended and innovative crop and livestock production practises. The diversity of projects is shown in the following list of projects including salinity control, intensive cropping systems, fertilizer response and placement, winter annual weed control, special crops and alternative summerfallow systems, swine nutrition, micro-nutrient deficiencies, early weaning of calves and fly control.

Introduction of the Beef Stabilization Plan caused a short term flurry of activity for staff as they provided information to clients through individual counselling sessions, public meetings, newspaper articles and the electronic media.

The 1981 cropping season started early, dry and dusty and had all the appearances of another year of drought. Severe wind erosion resulted in questions being asked on the advisability of conventional two year summerfallow-crop rotation practises. Activities were conducted to encourage alternative summerfallow methods, extended rotations and soil conservation.

The Winter Wheat Project completed its second year of exploring the feasibility of production in south west Saskatchewan. Chickpeas were demonstrated with moderate success in the south east region and interest in corn silage and sunflower production continued to increase. The Bright Sands and Fairlight Forage Projects demonstrated forage species, fertility and management practises for forage crops.

There was increased interest in the finishing aspect of beef production. Producers required information regarding custom feedlots, keeping calves longer and handling cattle efficiently through improved facilities and management practises. Other topics promoted were disease control, livestock nutrition, sheep synchronization, growth implants and straw ammoniation.

As the complexity in management of the farm business increases, it is necessary for farmers to have updated information. Staff resources were provided in the area of farm operating arrangements, tax management and financial planning. There has been more interest in cost of production information

indicating a concern for escalating prices in input costs.

Staff have been actively involved with community organizations showing an interest in improving the rural community. This usually involves assisting organizations in planning farm oriented activities of educational value to farmers.

Ag. Reps. also work closely with Rural Municipalities in planning and delivering jointly financed or co-operative agricultural programs. These may be delivered through district boards, municipal councils or ad hoc appointees of the council.

With communications being an integral part of extension, staff continue to provide information to farmers through the use of newpaper articles, periodic newsletters, and regular radio and television spots. The communications program is able to advise farmers of current information quickly, as well as information relative to department programs and policies.

III. Extension Programs

The FarmLab program became operational early in the fiscal year and at year end 26 locally initiated demonstrations had been established with total payments of $13,350 being made to co-operators.

Under the Regional Program Development Policy, 20 projects were conducted at a total cost of $60,500. This policy is being utilized to complete demonstration projects which were implemented prior to introduction of FarmLab.

Thirty-nine district boards received grants totalling $266,500 to cover two-thirds of the cost of employing fieldworkers to conduct a variety of pest control projects.

Grants to 4-H were paid as follows:

Saskatchewan 4-H Council for provincial program administration	$170,990
Grants to Regional Councils	109,140
Saskatchewan 4-H Foundation	25,000
4-H Club Grants	11,600.

Under the Farm Accounting Policy, $25,450 was paid to farm accountants on behalf of 379 farmers.

The Developing Farmer Training Policy provides assistance for training developing and beginning farmers. It includes on and off-farm training, on-farm advisory services and emergency veterinary services. The latter two categories apply only to FarmStart clients. In all, $34,630 was paid to, or on behalf of 43 developing and beginning farmers during the year.

Saskatchewan Indian Agriculture Program

The Saskatchewan Indian Agriculture Program operated this year on an interim agreement with the final agreement being completed at an official signing ceremony between the Province and the Saskatchewan Indian Agriculture Program Inc. on March 9, 1982. The new agreement terminates March 31, 1985. The federal treasury board approval and subsequent management agreement with the Minister of Indian Affairs provides for S.I.A.P. Inc. to continue full management and delivery of the Indian agriculture program in Saskatchewan. Major emphasis is placed on developing viable Indian farms on Saskatchewan reserves.

The Saskatchewan Agriculture — S.I.A.P. agreement provides for extension specialists to work specifically with Indian farmers and Band Councils to achieve the goals of the program. Agricultural representatives work with district boards having representation from all reserves. The district ag. reps. supervise and train staff employed by S.I.A.P., including Indian assistant agricultural representatives, a horticulturist and home economists, financial advisors, on-site advisors and summer students.

The Indian agriculture program received $24,845 to conduct demonstration projects under the Regional Program Development Policy. An important demonstration conducted under this program was chemical weed control.

Family Farm Improvement Branch

"The Family Farm Improvement Branch (F.F.I.B.) provides extension services to rural Saskatchewan in water and sewage, farmstead structures and systems, livestock pollution control and energy conservation."

The Family Farm Improvement Act

Activities and Expenditures

1. Rural Water and Sewage Policy

Technical advice and assistance is offered by water development technicians in 12 districts. The service is provided free of charge and is provided on the farm upon application. Activity remained high this year.

Branch personnel provided six water and sewage maintenance courses, attended by 187 farmers during the winter of 1981-82.

2. Community Water and Sewage Policy

This program continues to provide systems to many small communities which could not otherwise afford modernization. Preliminary reports were prepared for 31 communities. Eleven community water systems (239 connections) and eight sewage systems (263 connections) were installed. Seventy-nine communities ordered materials from F.F.I.B.

A total of $48,320 was collected for preliminary designs and technical fees.

3. Groundwater Search Assistance Policy

This program assists farmers in identifying the location of ground water supplies by using geological records and "E" logging test holes. The grant was increased this year to $1.50 per foot to a maximum of 50% of the costs, from $1.00 per foot.

A total of 652 grants, totalling $300,041 was paid, resulting in 82 recorded producing wells.

4. Grants for Construction of Deep Wells

This program, introduced in 1981, was offered to assist farmers who are forced to drill beyond the 300 foot depth in their search for water. The grant is equal to one-third of eligible costs for well drilling and developing work beyond the 300 foot depth.

A total of 148 grants, amounting to $188,321 was paid this year.

5. Rural Municipal Community Well Development Program

This program offers technical and financial assistance to rural municipalities for construction of community wells. There were 44 grants, amounting to $172,277 paid.

6. Water and Sewage Materials Supply Program

The Branch purchases and resells materials for water and sewage systems for farms and small communities. The materials are sold at cost plus expenses incurred in purchasing, warehousing and shipping. A central warehouse is maintained in Regina.

A total of 4,175 farmers and small urban communities purchased $2,373,148 worth of water and sewage materials from F.F.I.B. This is an increase of 1.3% over last year.

New products are continually being evaluated.

7. Emergency Fencing Program

As part of the Drought Assistance Program, financial assistance was provided to farmers to purchase material to fence land for short term grazing. The program was terminated December 31, 1981, at which time 10,326 grants totalling $2,515,475 had been paid (7,745 grants, totalling $1,898,042 this fiscal year).

8. Agricultural Engineering Services

The Agricultural Engineering Service Section provides a resource function to the branch, department, other agencies and individuals in the area of farm building plans, farmstead planning, farmstead equipment, mechanization, heating systems, alternate energy source development and energy conservation.

Staff participated in provincial and national organizations including the Canada Committee on Agricultural Engineering Services, Expert Committee on Energy and the Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Agricultural Engineering.

The Section also carries out research and demonstration projects. During the year project involvement included the use of a heat recovery system and air circulating system for poultry barns, natural air grain drying, hog barn cooling, ground water heat pumps, farm energy management systems, iron bacteria control by pasteurization, community water treatment systems and sewage effluent treatment.

9. Home Consultant Program

A film on kitchen planning, as well as several fact sheets and bulletins on kitchen planning, farm home planning and related subjects were produced. During the year, 206 floor plans for farm homes were produced for clients.

10. Extension

The branch provides two District Water Development Technicians and one Regional Farmstead Engineer to work as part of the extension team in each of the six extension regions. Support is provided by headquarters specialist staff.

Most individual requests for information involve water supplies, livestock pollution control, hog and dairy facilities, energy and field sprayers.

One new bulletin and two revisions were published; eight new "Handi-Facts" and five revisions were completed. A program to publish or revise 26 water and sewage related technical bulletins and Handi-Facts was initiated.

11. MEXabition

The seventeenth annual MEXabition was managed by F.F.I.B. and held in Saskatoon with the Saskatoon Fall Fair, and in Regina with the Canadian Western Agribition. Attendance was estimated at 40,000 in Saskatoon and 150,000 in Regina.

MEXabition continues to be an important extension tool for all branches of the department. New machines, methods, systems and programs are introduced with the co-operation of suppliers and other agencies.

12. ContrEX '82

During March 1982, in co-operation with a committee of representatives from the construction industry, F.F.I.B. staged a two day construction seminar and display for construction contractors and farmers. This event was held in the Agribition Building in Regina. The show was successful. Contractors and exhibitors recommend it be repeated.

13. Livestock Pollution Abatement Program

Saskatchewan Agriculture shares in the costs of relocating livestock facilities to more desirable locations where they were built before The Pollution (By Live Stock) Control Act came into effect in 1971 and, where there are no other alternatives to pollution control.

This year, two operations were relocated and provided grants totalling $8,468.

14. Water Pollution Control Policy for Livestock Operations in the Qu'Appelle Basin

Under the Canada-Saskatchewan Qu'Appelle Valley Subsidiary Agreement financial assistance is provided to farmers to construct control works or relocate livestock facilities which existed prior to 1971 and which are causing a pollution problem. About 1,000 livestock facilities identified in 1974-75 are under study by specialists.

During 1981-82, water pollution control works were completed on 30 farms and grants totalling $103,959 were paid.

The Pollution (By Live Stock) Control Act Activities

1. Act Administration

The Branch administers "The Pollution (By Live Stock) Control Act." Permits are issued for the construction of facilities for intensive livestock operations.

Before a permit is issued, approval must be received from the Departments of Health, Tourism and Renewable Resources and Environment.

Complaints against intensive livestock operations are also investigated by Farmstead Engineers, who recommend corrective measures. Minister's Orders may be issued to force operators to clean up their operations.

During 1981-82, 218 applications for permits were received, 115 permits were issued and 15 complaints were received and investigated. No Minister's Orders were issued.

The Agricultural Development and Adjustment Act Activities

1. Policy for the Construction of Community Seed Cleaning Plants

This policy is under the Canada-Saskatchewan Productivity Enhancement and Technology Transfer Agreement and provides for financial assistance for the construction of co-operative seed cleaning plants.

Consultation was provided to ten communities regarding the size, technical and financing requirements for community seed cleaning plants.

No plants were constructed under this policy in 1981-82.

Irrigation Extension Branch

(Formerly Outlook Irrigation Branch)

"The branch promotes, develops and communicates information for Saskatchewan that reflects the needs of those individuals, groups and agencies involved in the utilization of our soil and water resources for the purpose of irrigated production."

The main function of The Irrigation Extension Branch is to develop and deliver a complete extension package for Saskatchewan. The branch seeks, in many ways to reduce the knowledge deficit of irrigation. The need for on-farm irrigation production knowledge is only the most obvious and demanding. Matters of irrigation are often very complex and require input from many disciplines and agencies to approach solutions. Co-ordination is paramount.

The branch is headquartered at Outlook, adjacent to Lake Diefenbaker, the largest concentration of intensive irrigation in Saskatchewan. The branch is responsible for the South Saskatchewan River Irrigation Act and department activity in the Outlook area.

Professional irrigation counselling services of agrologists and engineers, and design services are provided free by Saskatchewan Agriculture staff. Funding is cost shared under Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement on Productivity Enhancement and Technology Transfer for Land Development; Special Crop Processing and Storage; Interim Crop Guarantee; Contracted Crop Analysis; Irrigation Crop Demonstration; Specialized Equipment Rental and Land Reclamation Policies and programs.

I. Services to Individual Farmers

The branch assists farmers in irrigation development and in undertaking intensive production, processing and marketing of crops that respond to irrigation management.

Counsel and advice on production practises of irrigation in Saskatchewan is frequently requested. Information on variety, herbicides, pesticides, soils, irrigation scheduling, harvesting, marketing, storage, processing and economics, on a number of different crops was provided. Specific production practises were outlined for many irrigated crops including alfalfa, soft wheat, corn, sunflower, dry beans and fresh vegetables.

II. Group and Public Services

The branch hosted or resourced a wide variety of Group and Public Services both in the Outlook area and elsewhere.

News and radio releases, newsletter and news column articles were supplemented with radio and television interviews. Printed extension materials developed and/or distributed by the branch were promoted through extension channels. Several tour groups were accommodated for extension and public relations purposes this year.

III. Programs for South Saskatchewan River Irrigation District No. 1 (SSRID #1)

An administration grant provides a ten-year phasing out of funding of operation and maintenance of the SSRID #1. In 1981-82 (as year 6) this grant amounted to $168,000, representing 40% of total budgeted operation and maintenance of SSRID #1.

The SSRID #1 power grant provides 50% of the SSRID #1 share of power pumping costs until December 31, 1984. The power grant amounted to $33,067 in the past year.

The Undeveloped Acreage Grant is equal to the water rate on the acreage difference between 42,000 acres and the developed acreage of that budget year (35,855 acres in 1981-82). The grant was $36,872 in 1981.

Capital Replacement Grant provides (until 1984) fifty percent of the amount invested by the SSRID #1 Board for long term replacement of capital works to a maximum grant of $20,000. The amount awarded in 1981 was maximum.

IV. Research and Development

Land Development

The Land Development Policy in the SSRID #1 provides engineering and technical survey and design services free of charge, and a ten-year earned grant. The grants for the fiscal period totalled $371,972 and were extended on 42 projects, bringing 3,025 additional acres under irrigation, thereby averaging $8,856 per project, and $123 per irrigated acre added.

Marketing and Economics

Under the Special Crop Processing and Storage Policy grants totalling $9,481 helped to upgrade the existing scale of special crop operations of KEG Farms Ltd., Outlook.

The Interim Crop Guarantee Policy in SSRID #1 offered coverage for soft wheat, fababeans, confection sunflowers, dry field beans, potatoes, carrots, and rutabagas.

The Alfalfa Marketing Commitment Policy guarantees a production base of over 2,100 irrigated acres, to the alfalfa processing plant at Broderick, Saskatchewan, until 1985, and at the same time provides long term farmer possession and security of the land.

Crops and Soils

Contracted crop analysis was as follows (copies of preliminary results are available from the branch):

Pulse crop response analysis	$25,000
Saskatchewan's Potato Adaptation Trial	$21,745
Onion Herbicide Trial	$ 3,405

Under the Irrigation Crop Demonstration Policy sixteen farmers testing the viability of confection sunflower, chinese broadbeans, grain corn and fresh vegetables on 265 acres, were reimbursed $24,026 as a portion of their input expenses.

The Specialized Equipment Rental Policy allows the purchase and rental of equipment at rates consistent with maximum practical usage. A six row corn header was added at a cost of $16,380 to the equipment owned by the branch and available for rental. The policy also allows a remimbursement grant on recommended privately purchased equipment. Funding of $3,100 was made for the private purchase and rental of a power harrow.

The Land Reclamation Policy in SSRID #1 provides assistance to farmers to develop a sound program for reclamation of land where it is evident that without some control or rehabilitation the land will become non-productive. The process is lengthy as a detailed investigation of soil, water table, crop growth, are made to identify the source and reclamation measures required. Funding through this policy was $3,725.

Publications and Articles

Projects that resulted in publications in 1981-82 included five Irrigation Newsletters; 1982 Projected Costs and Yields of Irrigated Crops at Outlook; Economic Comparison of Pivot Irrigation and Dryland Farming, Northwest and Southwest Saskatchewan, 1982; 1982, Irrigation Information Library; Production Guide on Chinese Broadbeans; Fertigation; Drainwater Quality in SSRID #1, preliminary study 1981; Fueling Inflation, Energy Cost Predictions.

Communications Branch

"The Communications Branch provides planning and production to branches and agencies of Saskatchewan Agriculture concerning extension communication methods. A library section provides technical and policy reference research support."

During 1981-82 the branch continued its direct media service on behalf of agricultural and home economics specialists, producing and distributing voice clips to radio stations and press releases to the farm media and home living editors. In addition, campaigns to promote warble control and two trade shows, MEXabition and Farm ContrEx were managed.

The branch continued to provide considerable assistance to specialists and extension staff in planning and designing newsletters and technical publications. Several publications, including a 40 page beef manual were edited and designed. In addition design, layout and artwork was provided for many publications and other print material.

Extension communications specialists continued to emphasize design and production of visual materials for use by extension staff. Films, slide sets and video tapes were purchased or produced in support of regional and provincial extension programs. Extension staff were encouraged to use a campaign approach to extension communications and several regional publications were designed to use with the audio visual materials.

During the year the branch added a collection of stock photo prints for use in publications and display materials. This will complement the small collection of display panels available for use by department staff needing small portable displays.

Development of communications skills of extension staff continued to be a priority. In addition to numerous counselling sessions with individual extension workers the branch provided workshop sessions on journalism for extension and photography. The branch also provided staff and resources for a three day workshop on extension communications sponsored by the Saskatchewan Institute of Agriculture. As a further aid to staff development the branch publishes a newsletter on extension communications methods.

Despite a complete turnover of staff during the year the library continued to provide references research service, routing journals, and interlibrary loans. Computer literature searching has been expanded. However, no progress was made in extending library services to regional staff and several hundred new items have not yet been catalogued.

Despite these problems the library ranked fifth among 14 of the provincial government libraries in a survey by the Association of Saskatchewan Government Libraries concerning level and quality of service to departments.

Farm Ownership Board

"The Farm Ownership Board is responsible for administering the provisions of the Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Act."

Applications for exemption from the provisions of the Act received by the Board from non-resident individuals and corporations not primarily involved in agricultural production, continued to increase in this fiscal years.

In 1980/81, the Board received a total of 132 requests for exemption from individuals not resident in the Province and a total of 67 requests for exemptions from non-agricultural corporations. A total of 58,809 acres of agricultural land was involved.

In 1981/82, the Board received a total of 139 requests for exemption from individuals not resident in the Province and a total of 105 requests for exemption from non-agricultural corporations. A total of 61,800 acres of agricultural land was involved.

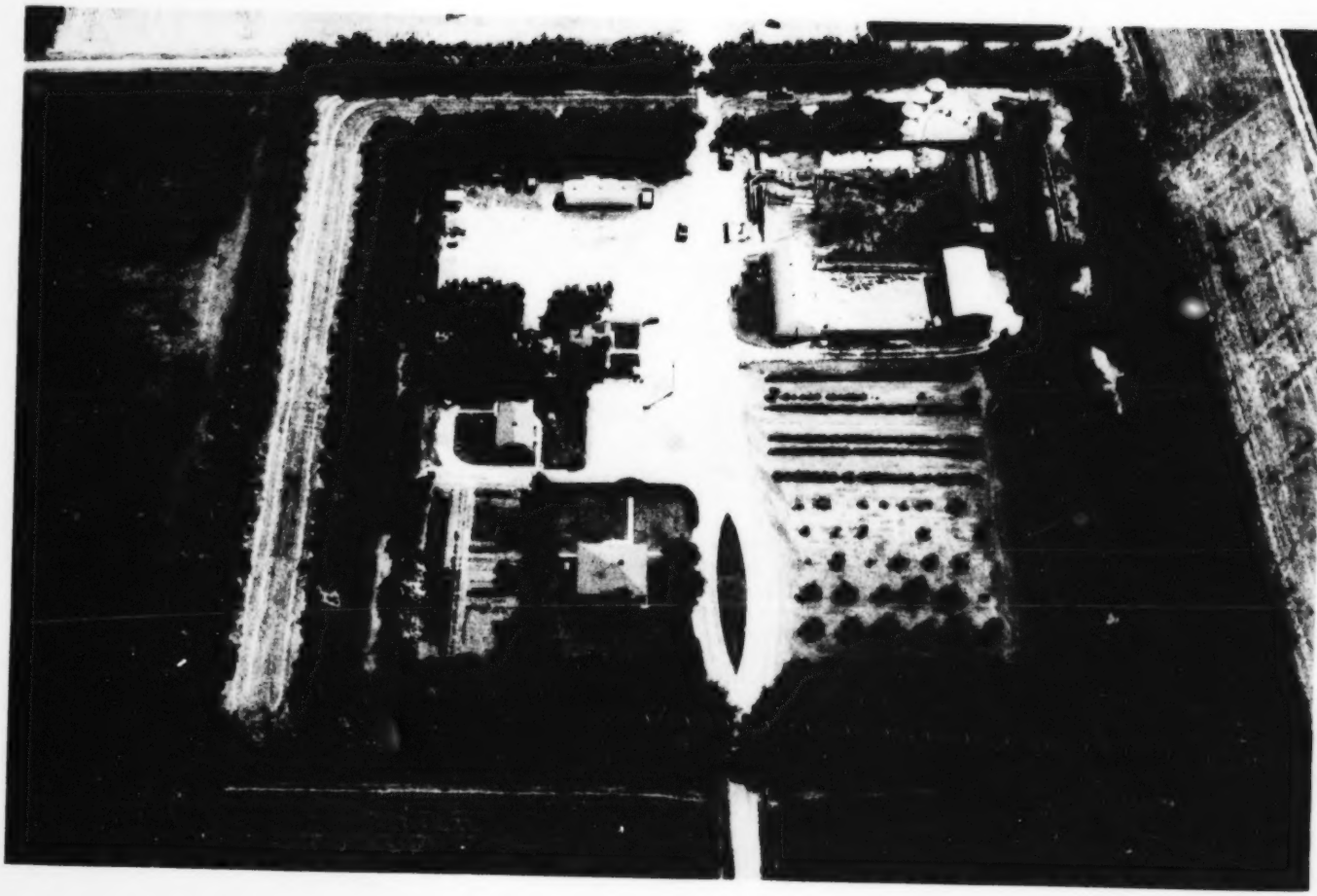
In addition to the exemption requests received, the Board investigated 594 non-resident acquisitions this year and 1,012 corporate transfers. A total of 465,565 acres of agricultural land was involved.

The provisions of the Act allow purchases of agricultural land by non-resident individuals and non-agricultural corporations not exceeding ten acres.

In this fiscal year, 14 individuals not resident in Saskatchewan purchased a total of 61 acres. The average purchase by this group was 4.4 acres.

A total of 259 non-agricultural corporations purchased 709 acres. The average purchase by this group of corporations was 2.7 acres.

In order to ensure that the public continues to be aware of the provisions of the Act, the Board undertook a modest advertising and information campaign in this fiscal year.



Marketing and Economics Division

"The Marketing and Economics Division aims to improve the economic environment facing Saskatchewan farmers and to assist them in making effective decisions within that environment."

The Division works with producer and marketing agencies, other department branches and agencies and other government departments in initiating, developing, implementing and evaluating activities and programs in the areas of marketing economics, land use and production economics and farm business management to assist the agricultural industry to achieve its earning potential. Improving the competitive position of Saskatchewan agriculture products in national and international markets is of parallel importance.

All programs receive final evaluation and approval by the administration section of the division prior to implementation.

I. Marketing

The Marketing Section provides support service to producers and agri-business in the areas of market organization, market analysis, market development and promotion. The market potential for new crops and products is examined. Marketing Saskatchewan agricultural products efficiently is the primary goal of the marketing section. Ultimately the major goal is to optimize producers returns and stabilize net farm income.

The section works closely with producers, producer groups and agricultural processing firms acting as advisors in the area of improving markets, marketing structures and in investigating both domestic and foreign market opportunities. This involves the expansion of existing markets, development of new markets, improvement of existing products and the development of new ones.

Oilseeds and Special Crops

- Assisted in developing the terms of reference for a market assessment study of the flax fibre industry.
- Participated as a member of the market development committee of the Canola Council of Canada.
- Provided project direction by serving as steering committee member for Saskatchewan vegetable industry study, a flax fibre market study, an organic food market study and an industrial potato evaluation study.
- Assisted in developing several proposals to evaluate and assess the potential for special crops processing facilties in Saskatchewan.
- Organized and accompanied an incoming Canola investigative mission from the Soviet Union.
- Assisted in developing a marketing proposal for waste heat greenhouse produced vegetables in Saskatoon.
- Organized and accompanied an incoming Canola investigative mission from China.
- Assisted in developing a leafcutter bee project involving a sale of Saskatchewan leafcutter bee cocoons to the Soviet Union.
- Organized and accompanied an incoming feed industry investigative mission by the Japan Feed Council.
- Assisted the Saskatchewan alfalfa dehydrating industry in developing a slide-tape presentation of the industry in our province.
- Assisted in developing a proposal to evaluate the potential for industrial potato starch production in Saskatchewan.
- Organized and accompanied an incoming Canola investigative mission from Mexico.

Livestock and Meat

- Provided information to breed associations or individuals upon request for all species of livestock.
- Served on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Western Agribition and the Regina Exhibition Association.
- Hosted out of country livestock missions to Saskatchewan.
- Served on the committee which arranged for the "Livestock Marketing Congress '82" to be held in Regina.
- Resource person for other department personnel in livestock related areas.
- Involved in selection and co-ordination of foreign delegations to Agribition.
- Provided industry related information to Industry, Trade and Commerce, Commercial Officers and overseas trading companies.

- Assist livestock associations in their promotional efforts.
- Attended various livestock related events such as Regina Bull Sale, Vanscoy Sheep Field Day, Saskatchewan Stockgrowers' Convention and Livestock Marketing Congress, 1981.

Food and Food Products

"Take Home A Taste of Saskatchewan" promotes Saskatchewan food products on a local, national and international level.

Consumer awareness locally in 1981 was increased by means of mall shows and regular news items such as radio spots, publication articles and recipe sheets. A film presentation on the Saskatchewan's Own program and the Saskatchewan food industry is now available to interested viewers.

The Buyer's Guide to Saskatchewan Food and Beverages is available to assist in planning banquets and events featuring a truly Saskatchewan cuisine.

On the national and international levels food shows in Lake Louise, Minneapolis, and Chicago proved valuable in opening new market areas for the Saskatchewan food industry.

Direct response from consumers, retailers, agricultural representatives and food firms indicates that the "Take Home A Taste of Saskatchewan" program is having a significant impact on the type of foods being purchased by Saskatchewan consumers.

Farm Business Management

The primary role of the Farm Business Management Section is to develop, organize and provide economic and farm business management information and advice to farmers, extension staff, course instructors and other farm advisors. The section serves as a resource body in providing materials and training for extension staff and others requiring factual farm management information and is responsible for co-ordinating the farm management program within the department.

The section is responsible for advising policy makers on matters pertaining to economics and farm management and for providing economic analysis in the areas of agricultural policy, programs and production techniques.

The following bulletins were revised during 1981-82:

- Income Tax For Farmers
- Law For Saskatchewan Farm Families
- Farm Business Arrangements
- Savings and Investments For Farmers
- Custom and Rental Rates For Farm Machinery
- Farm Business Analysis — Grain, Dairy and Swine
- Farm Credit Management
- Financial Planning Package
- Leasing Farm Machinery

The following bulletins were developed during 1981-82.

- Cash Rent — How Much Can You Afford to Pay?
- Part-time Farming
- Planning For Profit
- Economics Of Saskatchewan Pea and Lentil Production
- Designing Your Own Farm Accounting System

During 1981-82 a beef cost of production data collection system was introduced to provide cost of production information for beef.

The Farm Business Management calendar, a simple bill filing system, was introduced and updated.

Staff assisted in the development of the Beef Stabilization Cost Model as well as developing information on beef cattle feeding economics.

Several materials were updated in the Saskatchewan Farm Business Management Data Manual including Grain Drying Costs, Forage Harvesting and Hauling Comparisons, Poultry Production Costs, Bee Production Costs, Sheep Production Costs, and various other production economics related materials.

Several Farm Business news articles were written including:

- Paying Wages To The Farm Wife
- Economics of Stubble Cropping
- Farm Labor Management
- Why Make An Estate Plan?
- Trends in Grain Production Costs
- Forecasting Final Canadian Wheat Board Payments.

Staff participated in several meetings during 1981-82 including meetings on tax management (explaining new proposed federal government tax changes), estate planning and farm business arrangements.

Managing Farm Technology, a seminar sponsored by Saskatchewan Agriculture and organized by the Farm Business Management Section, was put on once again in 1981-82. The seminar was held in Saskatoon during the past year and was once again rated very successful by participants of the seminar.

Staff members analyzed several policy and program issues during the year. Areas studied:

- Fluid milk pricing
- Analysis of the cost of production formula used by the Turkey Marketing Board
- Provided information on income tax changes as they related to the formation of policy by the Government of Saskatchewan
- The SHARP program
- The Beef Stabilization Plan
- The A.I.D.S. program for the Department of Agriculture
- Analyzed the report of the new forward averaging annuity contracts
- The Lebret farm
- Municipal Affairs assessment of irrigated land

Farm Business Management staff provided a number of in service training workshops during the year including Farm Incorporation, Farm Operating Arrangements, Economics of Alternative Forage Handling Systems, and participated in meetings with Regional Specialists on the development of information for beef feeding in the Province.

Saskatchewan Agricultural Research Fund

Under the direction of a Secretary-Economist the Marketing Section administers the Saskatchewan Agricultural Research Fund which was established by the June 15, 1979, proclamation of The Agricultural Research Funding Act. The Fund consists of such money as may be appropriated annually by the Legislature, plus other money which may be transferred into the Fund by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council. It serves as a capital fund from which the annual earned interest is made available to other organizations for the purpose of agricultural research in the Province. A complete discussion of the Fund's activities is contained in their 1981-82 annual report which is available upon request from Brenda Machin, Marketing and Economics Division, 3085 Albert Street, Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0B1.

Saskatchewan Market Development Fund

This activity involves provision of administrative support to the Saskatchewan Agricultural Products Market Development Fund. The fund received an appropriation of $150,000 in 1981-82. The fund is established under The Agricultural Products Market Development Act and projects are approved for assistance by an inter-departmental committee involving the Department of Industry and Commerce, the Department of Finance and the Department of Agriculture.

The major objective of the fund is to provide assistance and support to various firms and organizations to undertake market feasibility, market development and product and process development projects to expand and improve markets for Saskatchewan agricultural and food products. Resources consist of an annual appropriation and the provision of one permanent staff position as secretary/co-ordinator.

The Secretary of the Market Development Fund worked closely with commodity marketing specialists on about seventy market development projects during the 1981-82 fiscal year. This year's projects have involved a wide range of large and small firms in all of the marketing areas covered by the market Development Fund policy.

A complete discussion of the Market Development Fund's activities is contained in the 1981-82 Market Development Fund annual report. Copies of the annual report are available from the Division upon request.

II. Systems and Analysis

The Marketing Systems Section provides analysis of performance of marketing systems for farm products, including agricultural processing. The section also provides professional and secretarial services to the Natural Products Marketing Council. Council is the supervisory agency for marketing boards and commissions established under The Natural Products Marketing Act, 1972. The Council consists of seven members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council. Two full time and one part time members of staff for the section were assigned to Council activities during 1981-82.

Activities of Council included attendance at marketing board and commission meetings, review and approval of market orders and amendments to marketing plans of boards and commissions, preparation of an annual report of Council for presentation to the Minister of Agriculture, advising the Minister of Agriculture on matters relating to orderly marketing, conducting research on marketing systems, sponsoring of a seminar for directors and managers of marketing boards and commissions, administration of national marketing agreements, and hearing appeals from persons who consider themselves adversely affected by the operations of

boards and commissions. Further information on Natural Products Marketing Council activities can be obtained from the Council's annual reports.

In 1981-82, the Section placed added emphasis on agricultural processing as a marketing system function. This resulted from the recognition of the benefits of improved and more stable producer returns, and increased employment which processing of agricultural products in Saskatchewan provides. Efforts were concentrated upon identifying constraints to processing development and evaluating methods of alleviating the constraints.

The Section is also responsible for provision of financial assistance to the Saskatchewan Farmers' Market Association for the establishment and operation of markets for farmers to sell their products locally.

Policy Analysis

The responsibility of the Policy and Analysis Section in 1981-82 was to provide assistance in program development and review for the Department. The Section also handled policy issues relating to land use and resources policy, energy, and the environment as these issues relate to agriculture.

Some activities in 1981-82 included participation on the Environmental Assessment Review Panel, research into the economics of alternative energy sources, and review of Crown land lease and sales policy.

Stabilization and Market Analysis

The Market Analysis section provides ongoing analysis of market performance and market trends, both short-term and long term.

Staff monitor, on a bi-monthly basis, "off-board" feed grain prices in Saskatchewan. A bi-monthly report is published containing grain and oilseed prices and commentary.

Staff provide support for the economic analysis of marketing related problems in agriculture, and provide expertise in the anlaysis of current market trends and long-term potential for crops and livestock.

The Stabilization Section assists in the development and administration of stabilization for producers to assure adequate returns.

The Section assists in the operation of the two major stabilization programs operated by the Department, Saskatchewan Hog Assured Returns Program (SHARP), and the Beef Stabilization Plan.

SHARP has been operating since 1976 and provides support to 2,051 producers, producing 68 percent of market hogs in Saskatchewan.

The Beef Stabilization Plan started operation on January 1, 1982. Three thousand one hundred and ninety-seven cow-to-finish production units have joined the Plan. Potential marketings from these producers represent an amount equal to normal steer and heifer marketings in the Province.

The Saskatchewan Sheep and Wool Marketing Commission and The Saskatchewan Vegetable Marketing Commission

The Marketing and Economics Branch continued to provide financial support to the Saskatchewan Sheep and Wool Marketing Commission and the Saskatchewan Vegetable Marketing Commission during 1981-82 in the way of an administration grant. Personnel continued to work with the Commissions on potential marketing alternatives for the improvement of the industry. Further information is contained in the latest annual report of the Commissions and can be obtained by contacting General Manager (S.S.W.M.C.), 1402 Quebec Avenue, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 1V5 and Glenn Annand (S.V.M.C.), Outlook, Saskatchewan S0L 2N0.

Agricultural Societies

"Agricultural Societies enhance rural community life through sponsorship of annual exhibitions, rodeos, farmer's markets and other traditional activities."

There are 67 agricultural societies and exhibition associations in Saskatchewan. Two new societies were organized in 1981 at Melville and Denzil. There appears to be a renewed interest in the formation of agricultural societies; several requests for information have been received this past year. Indications are that younger families are accepting leadership responsibilities in the local agricultural societies.

A new system of financial assistance to Agricultural Societies was initiated by the Department of Agriculture in 1981. The financial assistance is called an Operating Grant and is based on the cost of managing a society for a year. The maximum grant earnable by a Regional (Class B) Exhibition Association or Society was $10,000.00 and a Community or (Class C) Association or Society was $5,000.00. The response to the new system was very favourable.

Activities

The Nipawin Agricultural Society applied for and received a Regional Class B status in 1981. Nipawin in now eligible to receive a larger operating grant and they now become involved with the larger fairs and exhibitions in the Western provinces.

Summer or fall fairs continue to be the most popular activities sponsored by societies. A trend towards having the Country Fair extend over a two day period has grown and a good number of societies who conduct country fairs have adopted the plan. The main advantage is that it provides more time for judging, allows for more flexibility in program and gives patrons a better opportunity to view exhibits.

Two Agricultural Societies, Moosomin and Carnduff, in co-operation with the Extension Division, University of Saskatchewan, sponsored one day Exhibitors' and Judges' schools.

Societies continue to support the 4-H program in a variety of ways such as awarding scholarships, sponsoring regional livestock shows and sales, providing facilities for shows and other social activities, providing prize money for classes at summer fairs and offering adult leadership.

Saskatchewan Agricultural Societies' Association

The association is a voluntary organization of individual agricultural societies that assist member societies in improving their programs. In March and April, one-day regional meetings organized by the Association were held at Davidson, North Battleford, Swift Current, Gainsborough, Moosomin, Yorkton and Melfort. These meetings continue to prove popular and provide society members with an opportunity to get together to exchange ideas and discuss matters of mutual interest and concern. The regional meeting also helps to maintain a stronger bond between the local agricultural society and the provincial association.

Horticultural Societies

"Horticultural Societies promote the enhancement of grounds and gardens through educational events, competitions and by doing volunteer horticultural work in their communities."

Saskatchewan Agriculture supports horticultural activities at the local and provincial level. During this fiscal year, the Department paid out $19,353 in grants to horticultural societies. An additional $1,500 grant was paid to the Saskatchewan Horticultural Association.

Thirty-seven societies were active in 1981-82. The number of activities sponsored by Horticultural Societies totalled 168 in 1981 compared to 181 in 1980. The projects undertaken in addition to the regular horticultural shows included lectures, demonstrations, competitions, community flower, shrub and tree planting, and judges' school.

Fall horticultural shows and the sponsorship of educational events such as courses and workshops on horticultural husbandry continue to be the most popular activities of societies.

An activity which is valuable to communities is the bedding plant, shrub and cultivar sale. Many new and tested varieties of vegetables, fruits and flowers are introduced by societies providing quality material for distribution; twenty-two of these sales were held in 1981.

The high cost of food, and especially fresh fruit and vegetables, is an incentive for more home owners to have gardens and a few fruit trees. There is ample evidence to show that quality fruit can be grown in Saskatchewan; hardy varieties of plums, apples, apple-crab, cherries, pears, raspberries and strawberries are available for planting.

The very dry spring of 1981 had a direct bearing on cultivated fruit production, however, the yields of wild fruit such as Saskatoon, Chokecherry and Pincherry were abundant throughout much of Saskatchewan. The late summer rains produced excellent vegetable yields. The outbreaks of the tent caterpillar were not as heavy in 1981 as was the case in 1980. However, some areas had trees completely defoilated with tent caterpillar invasions. There is hope that the population of the tent caterpillar has peaked and is now on a downward trend.

Eighteen home beautification, grounds, garden and window box competitions and eight annual or perennial flower shows were sponsored by societies. Eleven competitions for youth events were also sponsored by societies. There is still a great need for the dissemination of information on varieties of plants hardy to Saskatchewan growing conditions. Horticultural shows are a beginning in fulfilling that need.

The Saskatchewan Horticultural Society continued its support of the demonstration areas at Indian Head. New trees added were Norland, Parkland, Westland and Collet apples, Lilacs, and cranberry. Mockorange, poplar and daylilies were also added to the demonstration beds in 1981.

Funds were invested for a perennial demonstration area in Saskatoon.

A revised Saskatchewan Horticultural Association handbook was printed and distributed, along with publications on rose classifications. A new publication "Let's Grow Lilies" obtained from the North American Lily Society was promoted. In addition, hasty-notes were printed and offered to societies for fund raising projects. Revision began on the Saskatchewan Horticultural Directory.

Horned Cattle Trust Fund

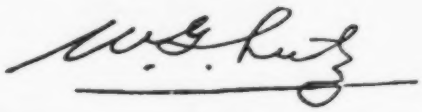
Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly
Province of Saskatchewan

I have examined the balance sheet of the Horned Cattle Trust Fund as at March 31, 1982 and the statements of revenue, expenditure and equity and changes in financial position for the year then ended. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances, except as explained in the following paragraph.

Because financial information was not available for the Saskatchewan Hereford Sales Company Limited, I was unable to form an opinion on the carrying value of the investment in preferred shares totalling $135,000. Accordingly, I was not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to investment in Saskatchewan Hereford Sales Company Limited, expenditure, excess of the expenditure over revenue and equity.

In my opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which I might have determined to be necessary had I been able to form an opinion with respect to the carrying value of the investment in preferred shares described in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the trust fund as at March 31, 1982 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1, applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.



Regina, Saskatchewan,
July 5, 1982

W. G. Lutz, F.C.A.,
Provincial Auditor.

Statement 1

Balance Sheet
March 31, 1982
(with comparative figures at March 31, 1981)

	1982	1981
Assets		
Current:		
Cash	$ 55,005	$ 44,506
Marketable securities, at cost which approximates market	102,416	118,874
Accrued interest receivable	333	1,277
Inventory of cattle (Note 3)	321,925	364,599
	479,679	529,256
Investment in Saskatchewan Hereford Sales Company Limited (Note 4)	135,000	135,000
	$614,679	$664,256
Liabilities and Equity		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	$ 4,219	$ 7,646
Equity — Statement 2	610,460	656,610
	$614,679	$664,256

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Statement 2

Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Equity
Year Ended March 31, 1982
(with comparative figures for the previous year)

	1982	1981
Revenue		
Collections under Sections 3 and 4 of The Horned Cattle Purchases Act	$205,160	$ 283,765
Less: Commission on collections	20,288	27,840
	184,872	255,925
Revenue from Pathlow Beef Project (Note 3)	130,199	206,473
Bank investment interest	18,750	7,655
	333,821	470,053
Expenditure		
Pathlow Beef Research Project — operating costs	209,561	179,790
Department of Agriculture — The Horned Cattle Purchases Act Advisory Committee — meeting expenses	822	3,870
	210,383	183,660
Schedule of grants		
Canadian Western Agribition Association	35,000	35,000
Western College of Veterinary Medicine	88,650	127,764
University of Saskatchewan	—	148,780
Saskatchewan Holstein-Friesen Association	6,732	5,996
Saskatchewan Hereford Association	—	17,608
Veterinary Infectious Diseases Organization	—	25,000
College of Agriculture	—	16,000
National Beef Information Centre	—	25,975
Black Fly Project	9,126	5,870
Meadow Lake Agricultural Society	—	6,000
Canadian Junior Hereford Bonanza	1,200	—
World Chianina Congress	3,000	—
Josh Storey	9,880	—
Milk Comp. and Nutrition Status of Dairy Cattle	16,000	—
	169,588	413,993
Total expenditure	379,971	597,653
Excess of expenditure over revenue	(46,150)	(127,600)
Equity, beginning of year	656,610	784,210
Equity, end of year	$610,460	$ 656,610

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Statement of Changes in Financial Position
Year Ended March 31, 1982

Statement 3

(with comparative figures for the previous year)

	1982	1981
Application of funds:		
To operations		
Excess of expenditure over revenue	$ (46,150)	$(127,600)
Decrease in working capital	(46,150)	(127,600)
Working capital, beginning of year	521,610	649,210
Working capital, end of year	$475,460	$ 521,610
Represented by:		
Current assets	$479,679	$ 529,256
Current liabilities	4,219	7,646
	$475,460	$ 521,610

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 1982

1. Accounting Policy

(a) The Horned Cattle Trust Fund follows the modified accrual basis of accounting whereby certain revenue and expenditures are accounted for on an accrual basis. However, collections and grant payments under The Horned Cattle Purchases Act are recognized in the accounts on a cash basis. Accordingly accounts receivable of $46,018 (1981 — $23,322) and commissions payable of $4,601 (1981 — $2,332) are not included in this statement.

(b) The Trust Fund has not been charged with any occupancy costs or administrative salaries and no provision for such costs is reflected in these statements. These costs are borne by the Department of Agriculture.

(c) Cattle inventory is valued at approximate realizable value at the fiscal year end. (Note 3)

2. Legislative Authority

The Horned Cattle Trust Account (Formerly The Horned Cattle Purchases Account) was established under The Horned Cattle Purchases Act and is administered by a committee established under the Act the Committee authorizes all expenditures from the trust fund subject to the approval of the Minister of Agriculture.

The purpose of this Fund is to promote research and development in the livestock industry.

3. Inventory of Cattle

In view of the difficulty which exists in assigning on a rational basis the costs of production to animals at various stages of maturity and since the correlation between costs and revenue is not nearly as close as in most businesses, the inventory of cattle held in connection with the Pathlow Beef Research Project has been valued at approximate realizable value at the fiscal year end. The corresponding changes in inventory from one year to the next have been described as Appreciation (decline) in value of opening herd.

Revenue from Pathlow Beef Project

	1982	1981
Cattle sales and natural increase in herd	$175,466	$177,608
Appreciation (decline) in value of opening herd	(45,267)	28,865
Total Revenue	$130,199	$206,473

4. Investment in Saskatchewan Hereford Sales Company Limited

The investment in the Saskatchewan Hereford Sales Company Limited represents the cost of 135,000 non-voting preferred shares of that company purchased in 1975-76.